

'Jewish settler population grew by 3.3 per cent'

TEL AVIV (AP) — The Jewish settler population in the West Bank and Gaza Strip grew by 3.3 per cent — from 163,881 to 169,339 — in the first six months of this year, a newspaper said Monday.

The increase was due equally to births and to Israelis moving to the disputed lands where the Palestinians want to establish a future state, the Haaretz daily said.

The newspaper cited yet-to-be-published figures by

the Interior Ministry. Ministry spokeswoman Tova Elinson was not immediately available for comment.

Haaretz said that in 1997, the settler population grew by 8.8 per cent, and by 3.3 per cent in the first half of 1998.

At the end of June 1998, 163,161 settlers lived in the West Bank and 6,166 in the Gaza Strip.

The continued expansion of Jewish settlements is a key point of contention in

the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, and the United States has urged Israel to freeze construction, to no avail.

Israel argues it needs to build to accommodate natural growth. However, the Palestinians and Israeli peace activists note that the construction goes far beyond that and that thousands of homes in settlements still stand empty.

More than half the settlers live in nine large settlements.

Palestinian beaten to death by Arafat's guards — rights groups

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Security guards for Palestinian President Yasser Arafat beat a man to death in Arafat's home over the weekend, two human rights groups charged on Monday.

Hussein Abed Abu Ghali, 55, died Sunday at Arafat's residence, where he had a meeting to register a complaint. His death was reported by a Gaza hospital.

The Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group (PHRMG) and the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) both said that Ghali was beaten by Jassir Al Ghul, one of Arafat's security officials.

"Al Ghul and his guards attacked Abu Ghali and beat him to death," the PHRMG said in a statement.

Ghul's body bore "marks made by military boots, evidence of blows to his body, and blood in his ears and mouth," the PCHR said. "We have sufficient reason to suspect foul play."

But an Arafat official told AFP that Ghul died of "a heart attack, while waiting for his meeting." The Palestinian Authority made no official comment on the charges.

Palestinian security forces have repeatedly been charged with human rights abuses since the beginning of Palestinian autonomy in 1994.

Two Palestinian policemen were executed on August 30 after being found guilty of a double murder.

Public sector strike ends in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's largest labour union, Histadrut, called off a strike Monday by 300,000 public sector workers after the government agreed to most of its salary demands.

"I urge all employees to return to work and to help revive the economy," Histadrut Secretary General Amir Peretz said following the signing of an agreement with Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman ending the strike.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu welcomed the end of the walkout and said the winner was the economy and not the unions. "We have a good economy. That's who won, and we've also got a good agreement," he told Israeli radio.

The agreement, however, did not concern public school teachers, who have been on strike since September 1, and Netanyahu urged them to go back to work so 1.5 million schoolchildren can return to

their studies.

"I call on the teachers to return to work immediately to allow children to go to class. Every day that goes by is one too many," he said.

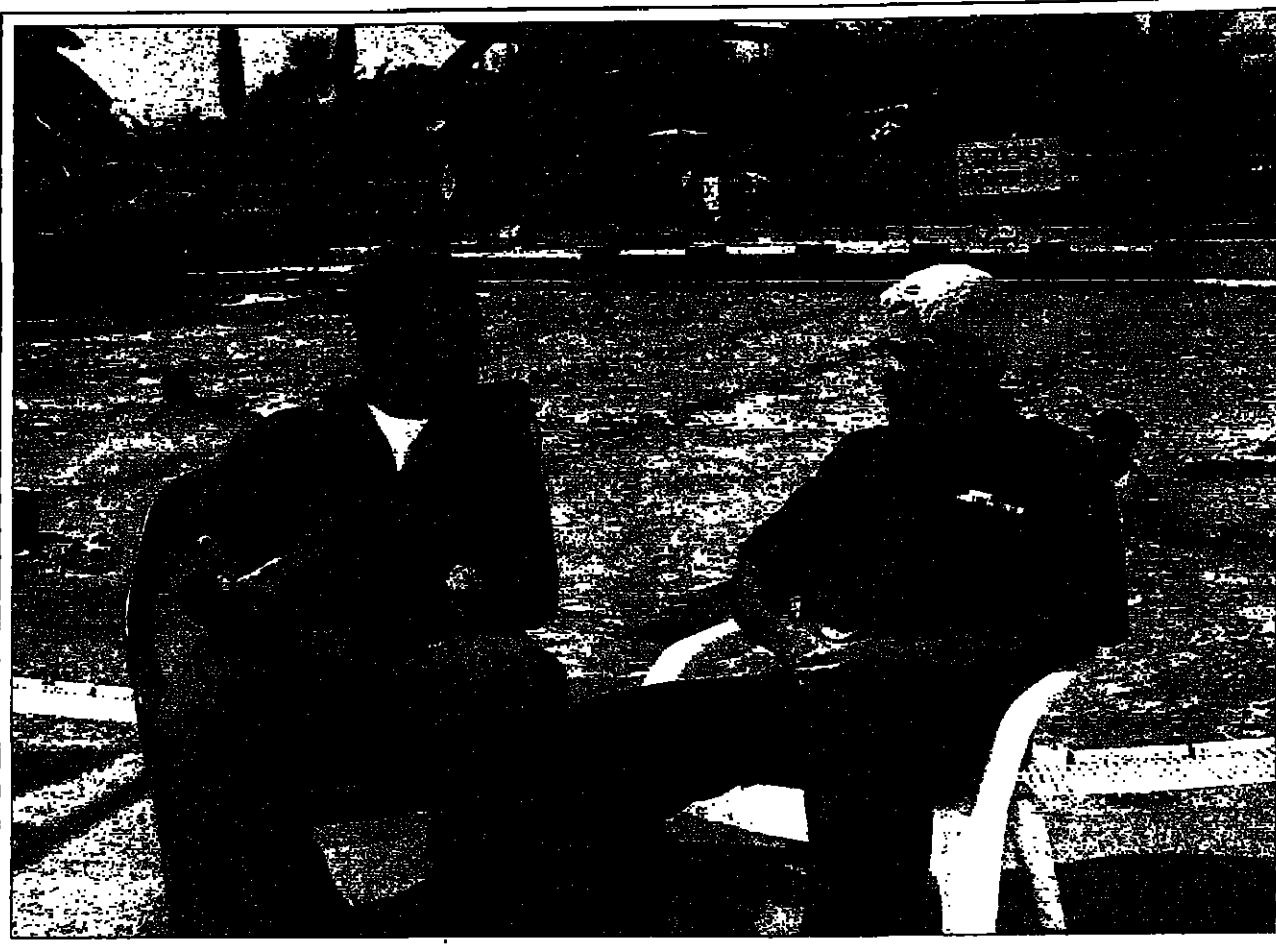
Histadrut had been seeking an across-the-board pay raise of eight per cent for public sector workers but the government had been refusing to concede more than 1.25 per cent.

Under the agreement, certain categories of civil servants will receive a bonus in October equivalent to 30 per cent of their monthly salary.

Others in the public sector will receive pay raises of 1.56 per cent a month for four successive months beginning in September.

Salaries will also be adjusted for inflation, currently around four per cent a year.

A government-union panel was also set up to look into restricting or ending the practice of using temporary hires by the government.



A FRIENDLY CHAT: Israeli army officer Monir Daher (L) chats Monday with Hassan Hijazi, a Palestinian police officer, as the two meet at a recreational area along the northern shore of the Dead Sea just south of Jericho. The two officers are the respective chiefs of the "joint patrols" carried out through the District Coordinating Office (DCO) in the self-rule Jericho area. A larger meeting of DCO personnel was held at the resort. The DCO and "joint patrols" were established under the Oslo accords signed and implemented five years ago (Reuters photo)

Iraq holds mass funeral for baby victims of sanctions

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq held a mass funeral here Sunday for 27 newborns it said were victims of medical shortages caused by the U.N. economic sanctions in force since 1990.

The funeral procession for the babies, who were between three and 20 days old, stopped in front of the United Nations Development Programmes' Baghdad headquarters to protest the embargo.

One of the banners brand-

ished by the crowd said: "By what right are Iraqi children killed?" Other banners cursed the United States, which Iraq has said is behind decisions to maintain the embargo.

A similar protest took place in early August outside the foreign ministry in Baghdad, when a funeral procession for 35 Iraqi children demonstrated during the visit of U.N. arms chief Richard Butler.

Iraq's Health Minister Umid Medhat on Monday

accused the United States and Britain of blocking contracts for medicine agreed under the oil-for-food programme.

"Humanity's enemies [Washington and London] continue to block the approval of contracts for medicine and medical equipment submitted during the fourth phase of the programme, giving non-scientific excuses," the minister said, quoted by the local Nabd Al Shabab weekly.

Hizbollah apprehends Israel collaborators

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Shiite Hizbollah militia, which leads the fight to push Israel out of southern Lebanon, has apprehended nearly two dozen people accused of collaborating with the Israelis, a local newspaper reported Monday.

The first arrest followed the assassination of Hussam Al Amin, head of military operations for the pro-Syrian Amal militia in southern Lebanon, Al Nahar newspaper said.

Amin was killed in southern Lebanon August 25 after his car was fired upon by an Israeli helicopter.

Hizbollah apprehended a man suspected of being linked to the killing, interrogated him and then turned him over to Lebanese authorities, the paper said.

Following the interrogation Hizbollah apprehended another 21 people who have also been turned over, it said.

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Israel knows fate of MIAs in Lebanon'

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel has definitive new information on the fate of three soldiers missing in action in Lebanon since 1982, an Israeli general said in an interview published Monday.

"We know very precisely what happened during the tank battle of Sultan Yacub, Lebanon, June 11, 1982" when several Israeli soldiers were killed or captured, General Gidon Shefer told the Yediot Aharanot newspaper. In August 1997, opposition Labour Party MP Salah said he was told as he was wrapped up a visit to Syria that the three soldiers had been buried in the Jewish cemetery in Damascus. "A member of the Damascus Jewish community witnessed the burial," he said.

Kuwait slams Iraq over PoWs issue

CAIRO (AFP) — Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah on Monday accused Iraq of dragging its feet in accounting for Kuwaiti nationals who went missing during the Gulf war. "Iraq has been dragging its feet for the past eight years and does not want to give clarifications, even verbally, although we have formally given information about 128 Kuwaitis captured by Iraq," Sheikh Salem said. Kuwait has repeatedly demanded clarifications over the fate of 600 people missing or believed to be detained in Iraq since the 1991 Gulf war. Baghdad has admitted that Iraqi soldiers arrested an unspecified number of people when they withdrew from Kuwait but said it lost track of them after a Shiite Muslim rebellion which broke out at the end of the Gulf war.

Saudi prince receives Iran's ambassador

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Ben Abdul Aziz met Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Reza Nuri on Monday in Riyadh, the official SPA news agency said. Details of their meeting were not given, but on Saturday, Iranian newspapers said Tehran had approached Riyadh for help in freeing its 10 diplomats allegedly held by Afghanistan's Taliban militia.

Iraq considering taking steps against U.N.

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq warned Monday it is within a "hair's-breadth" of taking new measures against the United Nations if the Security Council suspends a review of the sanctions imposed on Baghdad. The Security Council "must not be an instrument of American policies and must examine Iraq's legitimate demands, beginning with the lifting of the oil embargo," said the Babel newspaper, owned by the eldest son of the Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Uday. "Iraq is within a hair's-breadth of following a new strategy decided by its leadership, if the Security Council does not come to a just resolution which puts things in order," Babel said.

Palestinians cling to dream of an independent state

By Khalil Abed Rabbo
Agence France Presse

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Palestinians who negotiated the first Oslo peace accord with Israel insist it still represents the first step on the road to a fully independent state, but critics say it was fundamentally flawed from the start.

For the negotiators, the Oslo accord created the first-ever Palestinian entity officially recognized by the outside world, and they blame the current peace deadlock on Israel's refusal to implement the agreement honestly.

Under the agreement signed on Sept. 13, 1993, Israel was to gradually extend Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over a five-year interim period, during which the two sides would hold negotiations on core final-status issues.

"For us the declaration was a step on the road towards ending the Israeli occupation and obtaining our freedom," says Ahmad Qureia, also known as Abu Alaa, the principal Palestinian negotiator of the accords and now speaker of the Palestinian Legislative Council.

"The Oslo accords achieved many things. For the first time land came completely under the control of Palestinians and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) was created on our land," he told AFP.

"Oslo also affected important elements of Israeli society whose understanding of Palestinian rights widened," he said.

Also on the plus side for the Palestinians, Oslo sanctioned the creation of the PNA, which quickly gained control over 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip and seven main West Bank towns.

But Oslo's detractors charge that the agreements do not spell out the scale of Israeli withdrawals from Palestinian territories and that the concessions were all on one side.

Five years later, Israel still holds 40 per cent of the Gaza Strip and three-quarters of the West Bank.

Jewish settlement expansion in the occupied territories continues, the safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza Strip has not been created and the airport and port remain unopened — hostage to Israeli security concerns.

"The agreement was flawed because it did not explicitly address the key issue of settlements which have been allowed to expand and to create facts on the ground," said Haider Abdul Shafi, the leader of the Palestinian team at the 1991-93 Madrid and Washington talks which were superseded by Oslo.

"Essentially the agreement allowed the stronger side to impose its will on the weaker and the Israelis were really able to say 'we will act as we please,'" he said.

Negotiator Hassan Asfour also admits that "there was a gap between the Oslo announcement and the agreements which followed when, as a temporary strategy, the Palestinians made concessions on certain issues."

As part of the agreement, the Palestinians recognized the right of the state of Israel to live in "peace and security."

The Jewish state only recognized the Palestine Liberation Organization as the "representative of the Palestinian people" and did not have to sanction a Palestinian state nor where its borders might lie.

"The agreement allowed the Palesti-

ans to take control of some cities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. But this does not mean a thing if they are bantustans," says Abdul Shafi.

"The agreements also ignored the issue of return of refugees," he adds.

But Qureia insists that the agreements can still be made to work given goodwill on the Israeli side.

"The impasse which the peace process currently finds itself in is not a result of holes in the text of the Oslo agreement but of the mentality of an extremist government which does not really want peace."

Hanan Ashrawi, until recently the minister of higher education in the Palestinian cabinet, said that the problem lies in execution of Oslo.

"Any agreement which does not include an enforcement mechanism for execution becomes an abstract with the passing of time," she said.

"We cannot stop or stand still because that would lead to collapse. It is impossible to go back to what was before Oslo. Similarly, stopping where we are today is not an option because the situation will explode."

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 4773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:10 Cartoon — The Pink Panther
15:30 Small Talk — "Quiz Show"
16:00 Drama — Neighbours
16:30 Doc. — Life Choices
17:00 Doc. — Royal Blood
18:00 French Programmes — Les Coeurs Brulés
19:00 Lc Journal
19:15 French Programme — Fractales
19:30 News headlines
19:35 Step by Step — "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner"
20:00 What Would You Do?
20:30 Encounter
21:10 Mini-series — An Independent Man (Ep. 6)
22:00 News in English
22:30 Lonesome Dove
23:59 Feature film — Fugitive Among Us
01:30 End of TX.

PRAYER TIMES

04:51 Fair
06:10 (Sunrise) Dubai
12:33 Dhufur
16:07 Asr
18:57 Maghreb
20:16 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swadieh, Tel. 5920740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

4632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 4624590
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 4622366
Anglican Church Tel. 4624834/4624811
St. Abram Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 4771751
Amman International Church Tel. 5865897
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 5688404
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 5811295
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 4654932
St. John the Baptist at De la Salle College Tel. 5661757
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 4637440
Greek Orthodox Church Tel. 4646138
Church of Presentation, Swadieh Tel. 5920146
The United Catholic Church Tel. 4624757
The English-Language Catholic Parish Tel. 4614190
Evangelical Free Church Tel. 4892679
The Baptist Church Tel. 4628052
The Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 4771331
The American Orthodox Church Tel. 4775261

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology:
It will be relatively hot with winds westerly to easterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be hot, winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman 21/35
Aqaba 26/41
Deserts 18/36
Jordan Valley 25/41

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 40 Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

Following are the highest temperatures expected today in the following areas:

Ajloun 26
Jerash 35
Um Qays 34
Madaba 34
Petra 35
Dead Sea 40

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Hanna Mansour 4750197
Dr. Afif Shaloul 4898863
Dr. Khalil Ramadan 4774397
Dr. Nidal Dahleh 5827195

Al Asema pharmacy 4637055
Al Salam pharmacy 4636730
Shmeisani pharmacy 4637660
Nairokh pharmacy 4623672

IRBID:
Dr. Issam Salih 246858
Al Quds pharmacy 4623672

ZARQA:
Dr. Rabi' Atallah 994424
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre 4637111
Civil Defence Department 5661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 4630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192 4621111
4637777
Fire Brigade 4617101
Blood Bank 4775121
Highway Police 5343402
Traffic Police 4896390
Public Security Dept. 4630321
Hotel Complaints 5605800
Price Complaints 5661176
Water & Sewage Complaints 4897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 4787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 4623101

Abdali Tel. Repairs 5661101
Jordan Television 4773111
Radio Jordan 4774111
Water Authority 5680100
J. Electricity Authority 5815615
Electric Power Co. 4636381
RJ Flight Information 44-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 44-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 5921199
The Islamic, Abdi 5666131/7
Hussein Medical Centre Tel. 5856856
Luzmila 4630195
Khalidi Maternity 4644281/6
Aklieh Maternity 4642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 4642362
Malhas, J. Amman 4636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 5607071
Shmeisani Hospital 5669131
University Hospital 5353444
Al-Muasher Hospital 5667279
Al-Ahli, Abdali 5664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 477101/3
Al-Bashir 4775111/26
Army, Marka 4891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 5602240/50
Amal Hospital 5674155

ZARQA:
Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99099

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275535
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Ibn Al Naftes Hospital (02)247100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)34111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA
AIRPORT
ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:10 Tehran (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
08:00 Tuzor (Tunisia) (add) (RJ)
08:05 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)
10:40 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:45 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:25 Beirut (RJ)
13:25 Jeddah (RJ)
17:00 Cairo (RJ)
18:45 Kuwait (RJ)
19:00 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
19:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights
07:10 Frankfurt (LH)
10:00 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
14:30 Aden (YY)
15:15 Munich (TF)
16:00 Istanbul (TK)
17:20 Doha, Bahrain (GF)
17:20 Beirut (EK)
19:05 Kiev (6U)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55 Beirut (ME)
00:40 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
01:55 Bucharest (AZ)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:35 Larnaca (CY)
07:30 Paris (AF)
09:20 London (BA)

13:10 Paris (RJ)
14:05 Madrid (RJ)
15:00 Cairo (RJ)
21:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
21:25 Jeddah (RJ)
21:40 Damascus (RJ)
22:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

Other Flights
07:25 Frankfurt (LH)
10:00 Cairo (MS)
14:30 Riyadh (SV)
14:30 Aden (YY)
15:15 Munich (TF)
16:00 Istanbul (TK)
17:20 Doha, Bahrain (GF)
17:20 Beirut (EK)
19:05 Kiev (6U)
21:10 Tel Aviv (LY)
23:55 Beirut (ME)
00:40 Beirut, Amsterdam (KL)
01:55 Bucharest (AZ)
04:00 Rome (AZ)
06:35 Larnaca (CY)
07:30 Paris (AF)
09:20 London (BA)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
7:45 Beirut (RJ)
08:40 Jeddah (add) (RJ)
09:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:10 Vienna, London (RJ)
12:35 Berlin, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45 Kuwait (add) (RJ)
13:00 Geneva, Brussels (RJ)

ITALIAN FILM WEEK
The films entitled "L'addio" and "L'addio" are shown at the Cultural Centre from 8 p.m. and 8.00 p.m. respectively.
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Film 'Nasser' opens today following approval

By Amy Henderson

AMMAN — The controversial film "Nasser" will premiere today at cinemas in the capital, and movie-goers will be privy to an unedited showing.

Mohammad Neirab, the film's local distributor, yesterday said he was pleasantly surprised by a decision by Information Minister Nasser Judeh to allow the film to be shown without any cuts after having originally been banned from the country altogether last month.

The film, depicting the life of former Egyptian President Gamal Abdul Nasser and directed by renowned

Syrian director Anwar Qowadri, caused an uproar two weeks ago when the Press and Publications Department banned the movie for "violating audio/visual content regulations."

Qowadri and Neirab were later informed that some scenes of the movie presented a "false impression of Jordan and its role in the region."

The director said he had been shocked by the decision after having been advised by His Majesty King Hussein during the production of the movie, but offered to cut out three minutes worth of "offensive"

material. Neirab told the Jordan Times that the PPD had been offended by a scene showing a telephone call between Nasser and King Hussein during the fall disturbances of 1970.

The information minister then offered to review the movie personally.

The film has caused a stir not only in Amman, but also in Cairo, where it opened last month. Political circles in the "mother of the world" blasted the movie as an attack on the biography of Abdul Hakim Amr, the Egyptian chief of staff during the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. The movie has been

shown at cinemas throughout the region's capitals and was featured in an Arab film festival in Paris this summer.

Qowadri earlier said Jordan's decision to ban the movie drew into question Jordan's democratic path.

"In light of Jordan's courageous decision to premier Al Risaleh when no other capital would show the film, the decision to ban Nasser is astounding," he was quoted as saying.

Al Risaleh (The Message), a film about the message of Islam, was banned in all Levantine capitals except Amman after some Muslims said the film was sacrilegious.

Jordan can become Mideast's business hub — Crown Prince

By Ahmed Naser

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday told Jordanian businesspersons that the Kingdom could become the Middle East's business hub in the near future.

Speaking at the first Jordanian Businessperson's Conference, which he inaugurated yesterday morning, Prince Hassan said: "... in the last few days... influential international investors have told me that Jordan will attain economic importance."

"The east Mediterranean region is on the verge of [an economic] boom with Jordan at the heart of it," the Regent added.

The Crown Prince challenged Jordanian businesspersons to rise to the opportunity, asking: "Do you want to be part of this future [these foreign investors] see and also want to be part of?"

Hundreds of Jordanian businesspersons from the United States, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Qatar are attending the conference, which will deal with enhancing investment opportunities in the country.

Praising Jordan's human resources, Prince Hassan said, "We live in a world where wealth does not only rely on natural resources, but also on human resources," adding that the success of "expatriates" bears evidence of Jordan's competitive edge in this regard.

"I am sure that many of you toiled to collect your savings... And after gathering the fruits of your labour, you felt that it was your obligation towards yourself, your family and country to invest a portion of that hard-earned income in the noble cause of serving your nation," he added.

Underlining the importance of "partnership," the Crown Prince noted that people are partners in three resources: water, sustenance and energy.



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, yesterday addresses participants at the first Jordanian Businessperson's Conference (Photo by Boghos)

He cited the recent water crisis in Amman and called on the government to consider the foundation of a public share-holding water company, in which all could invest.

The Regent said such an endeavour is not aimed at only generating profit, but fostering group spirit, "where all own water... and are responsible for its use, cleanliness and preservation."

Voicing hope that this project would materialise soon, the Crown Prince said sustainable partnerships breed both development and a sense of belonging.

"We do not view investment as only a sum of money... but as a means of creating job opportunities... and the entrenchment of social security against fear, hunger and thirst," he said. "We do not claim that Jordan is a perfect country; however, we will not tire from exerting all efforts to achieve that," said Prince Hassan, adding that investment laws are continuously being refined.

The Regent said Jordan is working towards enhancing civil institutions and laws to

encourage Arabs and foreigners, as well as Jordanians, to invest in the Kingdom.

In his address to the conference, Hamdi Tabaa, president of the Jordan Businessmen's Association, noted that Jordan was among the first Arab countries to sign the pan-Arab market agreement and hosted the first inter-Arab economic summit. He called for the increase of strategic partnerships between the Kingdom and the Arab World.

Tabaa stressed the urgency of lifting all impediments to the free flow of goods and people between Arab countries, in light of the current global trend towards the formation of giant economic blocs and called for the lifting of U.N. sanctions on Iraq.

Citing both the critical stage of the peace process and an expected boost of the Kingdom's economy through bilateral trade with the Palestinian self-rule territories, Tabaa said: "We stand behind our leadership in enhancing economic relations with our brothers in Palestine... We are... all in the same boat."

Speaking on behalf of Jordanian businesspersons abroad, Khatalan Fahmawi presented proposals to improve the investment climate in Jordan. These included a commercial law that would allow swift and efficient arbitration, establishment of an independent investment commission tied directly to the prime minister to cut down time-consuming routines, training programmes for government officials dealing with investors and the formation of chambers of commerce for Jordanian businesspersons all over the world.

Fahmawi also highlighted the importance of revising both the tax and customs laws, as Jordan awaits entry into the World Trade Organisation and prepares to implement the provisions of the Euro-Med Partnership agreement. The conference, organised by the association and the Jordan Investment Promotion Corporation under the patronage of the Crown Prince, is sponsored by 11 Jordanian financial institutions and will continue until Sept. 11.

Interior minister declines to intervene in Communist Party row

By Tareq Ayyoub

AMMAN — Minister of Interior Nayef Qadi Monday said the feud between rival factions in the Jordan Communist Party is "an internal matter that concerns the JCP" and should be "settled through constructive dialogue."

In separate letters addressed to JCP Secretary General Munir Hamarneh and former long-time party chief Yacoub Zayadine, who broke from Hamarneh's leadership, Qadi said: "There were exchanges of accusations and disputes about the legitimacy [of each fac-

tion], and allegations of improper practices. It is none of our business, and we have no right to interfere. They have to reach a solution in the way they see fit."

The minister's letters were written in reply to letters he received from Hamarneh and Zayadine requesting that the ministry decide who legally represents the JCP.

In August, a four-month dispute over the party's leadership resulted in dozens of JCP members convening what they termed an extraordinary session of the party and electing Zayadine as their

leader. Hamarneh rejected the outcome of that session and expelled 11 members from the party, including Zayadine.

According to the minister, "Until now no violation of the Political Parties Law has been registered. But if [this happens], we will have other things to say. If their differences continue, we believe that they should take the matter to court," Qadi said.

"The ministry hopes that the party members will cooperate to settle their differences," he said.

Hamarneh said he will consult with lawyers to

decide what steps to take next.

He added that he thought "the minister's reply should have been clearer. His answer was vague, but we will clarify that during our meeting with him soon."

He said that of the 139 members who attended the JCP national conference held earlier this year, "only 40 joined with Zayadine."

"Zayadine did not leave room for reconciliation, and what happened is a consequence of his ambition to dominate the party. We will see whether we will go to court or not," he added.

Zayadine was unavailable for comment.

What's Going On

DARAT AL FUNUN SUMMER 98 FESTIVAL

"Summer 98" cultural activities at Darat Al Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, to last until Sept. 30, include:

EXHIBITIONS

- * 50 years of graphic art from Lebanon and works by Jordanian artist Sahel Hiyari at the Main House.
- * Works by Iraqi artist Samer Usama and by Jordanian artist Said Haddadin at the Blue House.
- * Installation works by Jordanian artist Samia Zaru at the Byzantine Church.
- * Exhibition of photographs "Memory of a Place" by Jordanian artist Hussein Da'seh at the Museum.

13TH ITALIAN FILM WEEK

- * Two films entitled "Two il tardivo" and "Cous Cous" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.
- * Two films entitled "Cous Cous" and "Isotata" at the Royal Cultural Centre on Wednesday Sept. 9 at 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. respectively.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Paintings by Iraqi artists Ismail Sheikhly, Suzanne Sheikhly, and Khalid Qassab entitled "Pioneers of the Fifties" at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Uthaina, until Sept. 21 (Tel. 5526932).
- * Paintings by Rula Shukairy at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, until Sept. 30.
- * Exhibition of wrought iron furniture by Jordanian artist Salim Al Bandak at Al Baidar Hall, Kan Zaman village (Tel. 5862531), until Sept. 17.



MINISTER VISITS NEWSPAPERS: Information Minister Nasser Judeh Monday speaks to journalists at a local daily as part of government efforts to launch a dialogue between the Information Ministry and the media to better serve the national interests (Petra photo)

U.N. food programme delivers wheat for development project

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations World Food Programme has delivered about 6,000 metric tonnes of wheat to Jordan to support its "Participatory Land Improvement" project, a WFP statement said.

The vessel "Sea Princess" carrying the wheat for the WFP berthed at Aqaba port earlier this week. The consignment was received at the port by the World Food Programme and a representa-

tive of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is the implementing agency of the project, the statement said.

The wheat, together with pulses and edible oil, will be distributed to a number of poor farmers, forestry and nursery workers and members of the Jordanian Cooperative Corporation for the development of rangeland.

Since the beginning of the Participatory Land

Improvement project in October 1997, the WFP has provided 10,498 metric tonnes of wheat, 626 metric tonnes of edible oil, and 261 metric tonnes of pulses, according to the statement.

It added that the WFP plans to supply a total of 42,745 tonnes of wheat, 2,565 tonnes of edible oil and 2,565 tonnes of pulses, worth a total of about \$17 million, over the five-year project.

Minister meets with council chief

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Nayef Qadi on Monday held discussions with the secretary general of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers, Ahmad Ben Mohammad Salem, on preparations for the council's 16th meeting, to be held in Amman in December.

Qadi and Salem also reviewed increasing cooperation between the ministry and the council on issues related to fighting crime and Arab internal security.

Following the meeting, Qadi told reporters that Salem delivered a verbal message from Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Ben Abdul Aziz, who is the honorary president of the council.

He said the message dealt with enhancing Saudi-Jordanian cooperation in security fields.

For his part, Salem said all Arab countries have expressed willingness to take part in the meetings.

Media battle over writers' groups importance to cultural scene

By a staff reporter

AMMAN — A media battle has started between the Jordan Writers Union and the Jordan Writers Association with prominent members from each group accusing the other organisation of failing to contribute to the cultural movement in Jordan.

An article carried last week in the Arabic daily Al Ra'i quoted JWA President Fakri Kawar as saying that a small country like Jordan with

less than five million people does not need more than one organisation to look after the interests of writers and promote the cultural movement.

In a column entitled "Will the union dissolve itself?" Kawar expressed his concern over the unity of members involved in the country's cultural scene. He advised the union's members to dissolve their group and join the association to strengthen the cultural movement.

Kawar's article followed reports

that seven of the union's nine board members resigned in protest against what they described as disharmony among board members, the board's failure to convene regular meetings to discuss cultural activities and an "unacceptable attitude" on the part of the union's president.

"The resignation of the union board members was due to disputes over the board's hierarchy and not because of ideological and cultural differences," Kawar said in his column.

Kawar added that since all writers in Jordan have a common goal, they should work together for the common good of the country.

But in a column defending the union published yesterday in Al Ra'i, former JWA Vice President Rinda Khatib, one of the seven board members who resigned, called on the association to dissolve itself and urged its members to join the union. Khatib described the disputes among the union's board members as

"a healthy sign" that demonstrated the union's pluralistic nature. She noted that the government decided 10 years ago to dissolve the JWA because of continued differences among its board members and the group's politicisation.

Khatib argued that the reason behind the board members' dispute was ability of union members to "air their views openly, unlike their counterparts in the association."

Man sentenced to life in prison for murdering wife, children

By Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Monday sentenced a 40-year-old man to life in prison with hard labour after finding him guilty of killing his wife and four children in Karak in May of last year.

Awad Mohammad was sentenced to life on five counts of manslaughter. Mohammad, who was charged with killing his 35-year-old wife and four of his six children on May 13, had said he committed a crime of honour, authorities said.

But in its ruling yesterday, the court tribunal rejected the defendant's argument on the grounds that "the testimonies of the children were contradictory."

"The defendant's daughter, Nermeen, eight, first told police that her father gave her 60 piasters to claim that her mother was 'immoral,' then in court she claimed that she saw a strange man with her mother in their house," presiding Judge Mohammad Ajarmeh said.

"The court cannot consider these contradictory testimonies and judge it as a crime of honour," Judge Ajarmeh told the courtroom.

The court also changed the original charge of premeditated murder, which could

have carried the death penalty, to manslaughter.

"It was clear to the court that Mohammad shot his family after quarrelling with his wife," the court maintained.

The judge added that "due to this heinous crime, and the fact that the father of Samar Salah, the defendant's wife, did not drop charges against the defendant, the court finds no reason to reduce the sentence."

Criminal Prosecutor Majed Azab had asked the court for the maximum penalty, which in the case of manslaughter is life in prison.

Mohammad's defence attorney Ali Talafih told the Jordan Times following the conclusion of the 15-minute court session that he planned to appeal the verdict.

"The grandfather of the children dropped the charges against his son, which would have reduced my client's sentence to 15 years, a fact the court did not take into consideration," Talafih said.

Mohammad was also convicted of attempted manslaughter, threatening the life of his daughter (Nermeen) and possession of an unlicensed gun.

According to the prosecu-

tion charge sheet, the defendant plotted to kill his wife and children after ten years of marriage "because he suspected that the children were not his."

On the night of the incident, the suspect locked his wife and six children in their house, drew a gun he had purchased a few months before the incident, and shot five of his family at close range.

Close friends and relatives of the defendant told the Jordan Times shortly after the incident that Mohammad, a taxi driver in Aqaba, had suffered from financial problems and that "they were the actual reason why he killed his family."

Paternity tests performed on the child victims proved that they were Mohammad's children.

Samar Salah's mother had testified earlier that her daughter was frequently "assaulted by her husband and that he had threatened to kill her."

"My daughter told me several times that her husband used to beat her and kick her out of the house with her children and had asked her to go and find him another wife. When she refused, he said he would kill her," the victim's mother told the court.

Literacy rate rises to 90 per cent — official

AMMAN (Petra) — The literacy rate in the country rose to 90 per cent by the end of last year as a result of Education Ministry campaigns in schools and adult literacy classes, an official said Monday.

In a statement marking International Literacy Day on Sept. 9, Mahmoud Massad, director of the ministry's general education department, said the ministry has offered literacy and adult education classes to over 350,000 people since the programme was started in the early 1960s.

In 1964, the Education Ministry made education compulsory until ninth grade and later increased it to tenth grade, helping reduce the illiteracy rate in the Kingdom, said Massad.

He noted that the ministry's measures to open schools in all areas of the country and to improve the quality of education, moves he said helped achieve an attendance rate of 98 per cent for the 1996-97 school year.

Massad added that the adult literacy and education classes work with groups of 10-15 people and provide basic education to a level corresponding to sixth grade.

Comparing Jordan's literacy rates with those in the rest of the Arab World, Massad said the average illiteracy rate is approximately 51 per cent, or almost 36 million people over 15 years of age.

Time	Flight
3:10	Paris
4:05	Moscow
5:00	Cairo
11:15	Bahrein
11:25	Jeddah
11:40	Damascus
22:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai
Other Flights	
07:25	Frankfurt
10:00	Cairo
14:30	Riyadh
14:30	Aden
15:15	Moscow
16:00	Bahrein
17:20	Dubai
17:20	Kiev
19:05	Tel Aviv
21:10	Bahrein
23:55	Amsterdam
01:40	Bahrein
01:55	Riyadh
04:00	Larnaca
06:35	Paris
07:30	London
09:20	Royal Wings (RW) Flight
08:00	Aqaba from Madaba
09:30	Aqaba from Madaba
09:30	Aqaba from Madaba
17:30	Tel Aviv from Madaba
21:30	Aqaba from QALAH

U.S. officials to press Milosevic on human rights abuses in Kosovo

BELGRADE (AFP) — The top U.S. human rights official, John Shattuck, was expected to insist in talks with President Slobodan Milosevic Monday that Belgrade act to mitigate the humanitarian disaster he has accused it of making in Kosovo.

"Belgrade cannot look away from the disaster it has created," Shattuck, the U.S. deputy secretary of state for human rights, said as he arrived here Sunday prior to his scheduled meeting with Milosevic.

He was accompanied by former U.S. Senator Bob Dole, a one-time Republican presidential candidate, who made a two-day visit with Shattuck to Kosovo, touring former strongholds of the separatist rebel Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) Sunday.

"We have seen horrendous human rights violations, violations of humanitarian law and acts of punitive destruction on a massive scale," Shattuck told reporters.

"We are deeply concerned about the plight of refugees and we note that as each day passes we come closer to a humanitarian disaster."

Thousands of people, mostly ethnic Albanians, are believed to be hiding in forests and hills after fleeing the fighting between Belgrade's troops and the KLA.

"If the authorities do not

take immediate action to stop the massive shelling of civilians and destruction of villages, many will be at serious risk of freezing or starving," Shattuck said.

Dole added that "clearly, there is a humanitarian disaster here that is rapidly developing into a humanitarian catastrophe of tremendous proportions." Shattuck said that the issue topping the talks with Milosevic would be "first-hand reports that security forces are separating men and boys from their families in villages and clusters of internally displaced persons."

Following armed clashes in the south of Kosovo, Serbian troops arrested some 450 suspected members of the KLA at the weekend.

Serbian state television (RTS) showed footage of dozens of men of fighting age, in civilian clothes, sitting or kneeling with their hands behind their heads, saying they were captured "terrorists," Belgrade's term for KLA rebels.

The two officials urged Belgrade to allow "impartial forensic experts" to examine reports and findings on alleged "mass grave sites" on both sides.

"All that we have seen points to the urgent need for investigation and prosecution by the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia

(ICTY)," Shattuck said.

Meanwhile in the Kosovo capital Pristina, the clandestine ethnic Albanian parliament demanded an investigation by the ICTY of the "crimes committed in Kosovo."

It also called on the international community to "take urgent measures, with the assistance of NATO, to demilitarise Kosovo," the Albanian-language daily Bujku reported.

"This will create conditions needed for establishing an international provisional administration" in the province, the underground assembly said in a call to the European Union and the U.S., Bujku reported.

The unofficial Kosovo Albanian parliament, elected in clandestine polls on March 22, held its first constituent session on July 16.

Kosovo enjoyed an autonomous status until it was revoked by Belgrade in 1989. But the Albanians' call for independence from Serbia is not supported by the international community, which instead favours the idea of a high level of autonomy of Kosovo.

More than 900 people, mostly ethnic Albanians, have died since clashes began in late February when Belgrade troops launched a crackdown on ethnic Albanian separatists fighting for the independence of the province.



Cambodian Premier Hun Sen speaks at a news conference in Phnom Penh during which he announced an order to arrest prominent opposition figure Sam Rainsy. The arrest order followed a grenade attack on Hun Sen's residence in Phnom Penh earlier in the day. No one was injured in the attack (Reuters photo)

Cambodian strongman orders crackdown after grenade attack

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — Cambodian strongman Hun Sen Monday ordered a crackdown on opposition demonstrators and the arrest of rival Sam Rainsy after an early morning grenade attack on his residence.

Hun Sen blamed the morning drive-by attack on his unoccupied home on leaders of a nearly two-week-old opposition sit-in protesting against alleged fraud in the July 26 polls.

The powerful second prime minister, whose party won the polls, gave demonstrators just hours to disperse.

Hun Sen, who flew from the northern town of Siem Reap after the attack, said police were seeking to arrest Sam Rainsy, who is holed up in a United Nations office.

"Demonstrators must disperse by midnight. After that the demonstration will be closed down," he told a news conference, accusing protest leaders of plotting to destroy his victory in the elections.

"Four or five grenades do not destroy the election. They are trying to destroy it by provoking me into using force," he said.

The head of the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) said the country's borders had been sealed off to those wanted for arrest and called on foreign missions not to offer them sanctuary.

The opposition Sam Rainsy Party immediately denied any link to the grenade attack and said any attempt to arrest its

leader would violate Cambodian and international law.

It called on Hun Sen to "deescalate the situation for the sake of peace and democracy in Cambodia."

Sam Rainsy remained holed up in the U.N. secretary general representative office in the Cambodian hotel after lengthy unscheduled talks there with the U.N. representative and the ambassadors of France, the United States, Australia, Canada and Singapore.

Details of the discussions were not immediately available. Sam Rainsy had been scheduled to deliver a speech in the so-called "Democracy Square" late Monday, where hundreds of supporters of the opposition FUNCINPEC party led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh and his own party have occupied an area outside parliament calling for investigations into the polls.

But a spokesman for his party said Sam Rainsy had declared himself under U.N. protection and would remain in the U.N. office for "an unspecified period."

A FUNCINPEC statement condemned the grenade attack but made no mention of Sam Rainsy's predicament. There were no injuries from the three grenades, two of which exploded. Security officials said four attackers rode up to the city centre residence on motorbikes, tossed the grenades into the compound and escaped.

Police chief Hok Lundy said one suspect had been

detained and investigations were continuing. The residence suffered light damage including five broken windows.

King Norodom Sihanouk expressed his "deepest regret" at the attack and appealed for calm.

"I appeal to my nation to please avoid creating violence that could bring dishonour upon us," he said in a statement from Siem Reap where he has been trying to broker an agreement to end the political deadlock.

The attack came on the final session of the three-day talks which according to the king have made no progress.

FUNCINPEC and the Sam Rainsy party filed more than 800 complaints regarding the polls, all of which were dismissed by the National Election Committee.

A fraction of those complaints were heard on appeal but subsequently rejected by the Constitutional Council.

The opposition claims both bodies are pro-CPP and has refused to recognise the official election results. These show the CPP winning just over 41 per cent of the vote, enough for a majority in parliament but not the two-thirds needed to form a government on its own.

The opposition won the remaining seats but has refused offers to form a coalition unless Hun Sen steps down. It vows to boycott parliament until its complaints are addressed, a move that could lead to constitutional crisis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Key French minister still in coma

PARIS (AFP) — Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the French interior minister, remained in a coma Monday after suffering heart failure during surgery last week, official sources said. A statement from the Val-de-Grace military hospital where the 59-year-old minister is being treated was expected later in the day. His government cabinet colleague, Education Minister Claude Allègre, this weekend described Chevènement's condition as "alarming because after an accident like this you can fear the consequences." Chevènement suffered heart failure Wednesday after proving allergic to an anaesthetic administered for a routine gall bladder operation. He was revived after almost an hour of cardiac massage but then fell into a coma. Tributes have been pouring in from all sides for the powerful minister, with even political rivals such as former Premier Edouard Balladur describing him as a man "of great courage and conviction" and wishing him a speedy recovery. His portfolio has been handed over temporarily to Jean-Jack Queyranne, junior minister for overseas territories. A hospital statement Saturday said Chevènement was "still in a reactive coma but his neurological condition is gradually improving."

Romania attends Silk Road conference

BUCHAREST (AFP) — Romanian President Emil Constantinescu left Monday morning for a conference in Baku on the creation of a major transit corridor for modern commodities along the ancient "Silk Road." Constantinescu will join representatives of some 34 countries and 18 international organisations — including the heads of state of Georgia, Kazakhstan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan — in Baku Monday and Tuesday. They will discuss the creation of a transport corridor of low tariffs and improved infrastructure that will link up the former Soviet republics in Central Asia, the Caucasus and Ukraine. But many in Azerbaijan envision the conference as more than just an opportunity to improve the region's automobile, railway, air and sea routes. It is also seen as a way to enhance the country's own importance in the region — harking back to medieval days. Romania on the other hand sees the route as a way to improve its own prospects, hoping to become "an important player in oil drilling" in Central Asia, Constantinescu said.

Greenpeace protest at German gene-manipulated corn

BONN (R) — Protesters from the environmental lobby group Greenpeace Monday placed a giant warning label on a field in southern Germany which they said was being used to grow genetically engineered corn. They stretched a 400-square-metre banner reading "Attention — genetically manipulated" and a large "X" as the sign for genetic engineering across a corn field in the town of Riegel am Kaiserstuhl near Freiburg. Greenpeace said the genetically manipulated corn was of a kind belonging to the Swiss pharmaceuticals firm Novartis and that it had been planted without the knowledge of those on the neighbouring land. "This is one of several hundred fields which lie hidden in Germany," Greenpeace said in a statement. The group said the Novartis corn was a health hazard because it was treated to be resistant to antibiotics and could therefore hinder the effectiveness of such medicines in human beings and animals. The genetically engineered crops could also be carried over into the neighbouring fields and crops through pollen dispersal and so affect other crops as well, Greenpeace said. "The neighbours must be able to be protected from the uncontrolled dispersal of the genetically engineered corn," said Greenpeace's gene technology expert Jan van Aken. "Otherwise their harvest will also be polluted by gene technology."

California church opens food court

GARDEN GROVE, California (AP) — The Rev. Robert H. Schuller hopes people will come to his church for a bit of religion — but stick around for the food. The Crystal Cathedral's expansion plans include a food court that will serve breakfast and lunch. "When the tourists come here, we want to feed their tummies and their souls," spokeswoman Claudia Holloway said Sunday. "Now people who are curious can stay longer and break bread together with their friends." Food and beverages won't, however, be allowed in the sanctuary. About 250,000 people a year visit the Orange County landmark and officials expect bigger crowds when the new 4,645-square-metre exhibition centre and food court is completed in 2000. Benjamin J. Hubbard, chairman of the department of comparative religion at California State University, said the church is blurring the secular and the ecclesiastical. "It smacks of the mall mentality gone crazy," Hubbard said. "You shop for religion and then swing by the food court."

Robber gives money back, gets arrested anyway

ALBUQUERQUE, New Mexico (AP) — Police said a man threatened a woman at an automated teller machine and took \$20. Then, when she pleaded with him, he gave it back. Officers arrested James Bigger anyway. The 46-year-old woman was "scared to death" during the robbery Thursday evening. She shook uncontrollably and had difficulty breathing, according to the police report. The woman was withdrawing \$20 from an ATM when Bigger approached and ordered her to hand it to the cash, according to the criminal complaint. Bigger also allegedly threatened to kill her several times, pointing to a bulge under his T-shirt and telling her he had a gun. Bigger ordered the woman into her car, but she told him she'd withdrawn the \$20 because she was out of gas, the complaint said. After her "continued pleading," Bigger allegedly gave her back the money, offered her his hand and said, "No hard feelings?" When he walked away, she called police. Bigger, 33, was arrested at a nearby bar. He was charged with robbery, false imprisonment, attempted kidnapping and assault and was jailed without bail on a probation violation. Police said they found a bottle of vodka under his shirt, but no gun.

Bees flourish in New York City

NEW YORK (AP) — Bears are non-existent. Rats, pigeons and skunks are too reluctant to be much of a threat. The Big Apple, it turns out, is a great place to be a bee. "They do really well here," said David Graves, who has hundreds of thousands of honeybees in seven hives across New York City. "They mind their own beeswax, too, and don't go around stinging sidewalk-bound New Yorkers. Graves puts his hives up on rooftops — as high as 12 stories — to keep them undisturbed. Each of Graves' hives can produce 23 kilograms of honey a year, which he sells for \$5 per 11 kilograms at the city's greenmarkets. His ordinary New England honey goes for \$3. Graves, 48, has been raising bees for 15 years. He got the up-on-the-roof idea one spring after black bears raided hives near his Becket, Massachusetts, home. "To avoid the bears, we put the hives up high," his wife, Mary, said Wednesday. "My husband had been selling at the New York greenmarkets for five years, and he looked around and saw that one thing you have a lot of in New York is rooftops."

U.N. rights chief runs into dissident outcry at start of China visit

BEIJING (AFP) — U.N. Human rights chief Mary Robinson ran into controversy Monday on her first day of landmark meetings with Beijing officials, as dissidents across China appealed for her help against political oppression.

When signing a memorandum of intent on improved technical cooperation between her office and Beijing, Robinson appeared to promise to listen to ordinary people and not just officials during her visit.

"I hope to contribute to the awareness of human rights amongst the Chinese public and to demonstrate my interest in and support of issues of their concern," she said in a prepared speech on the first visit to China by a U.N. Human Rights Commissioner.

Some 139 dissidents urged her to intervene on behalf of activist Zhao Changqing, 28. He was arrested in January for protesting after his bosses at a nuclear factory illegally barred him from running as its representative to China's parliament.

Among the signatories of the letter — at least the fifth sent to Robinson in two days — were prominent dissidents Wang Youcai, Xu Wenli, Lin Mu and Qing Yongmin, according to the Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China.

Zhao's three-year jail term was only made public Saturday on the eve of Robinson's arrival.

At the same time, the sister of political detainee Chen

Zengxiang wrote to Robinson from eastern Shandong province to say authorities in Qingdao city had violated the law by preventing him from seeing a lawyer, the centre said.

Authorities last week brought formal charges against Chen of seeking to overthrow state power. He has been detained since May for his connection to the underground opposition China Democracy Party.

Some 116 dissidents Sunday appealed to Robinson to visit one of the country's labour camps, which they said represent "large-scale and systematic" abuses of human rights.

Veteran dissident An Fuxing issued a written protest to draw Robinson's attention to Beijing's practice of barring exiled dissidents from returning to their homeland, which he said violated "basic principles of human rights."

The U.N. commissioner's spokesman Jose Diaz said the delegation had learned of the petitions through press reports but had not been directly contacted by dissidents.

"We've seen the reports of the letters and petitions but we haven't received any."

More than 50 activists in an earlier petition urged Robinson to meet dissidents personally. They fear Beijing will give her only upbeat official accounts of alleged human rights improvements while using her trip to boost its international image.

But Diaz said he was unaware of any requests for face-to-face meetings.

"I have had no direct contact in relation to any requests for a meeting," Robinson said before heading to China.

At Monday's signing ceremony she made no reference to the issue, saying only: "I see this first visit as an opportunity to inform myself of the human rights situation in China."

Chu Hailan, the wife of detained labour activist Liu Nianchun, told AFP the dissident community was "very disappointed" with the U.N. rights chief's plans.

"If Mary Robinson really knew about the situation of China's human rights, she should meet with us," she said. "If she only wants to talk with the government, the situation can't be improved."

Diaz said Robinson's schedule included many contacts with non-governmental figures, such as academic participants in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences workshop which she attended Monday afternoon.

At the workshop, which examined China's possible accession to U.N. human rights treaties, "people raised different issues in relation to Chinese legislation and how that affects citizens in everyday life," he said.

Earlier in the day Robinson signalled she had modest goals for the first visit, aimed mainly at laying the groundwork for progress. The signing of the memorandum of intent marked only "the beginning of a process," she said.

She had a working meeting and lunch with Foreign Affairs Assistant Minister Wang Guangya.

Leprosy experts meet in Beijing to plan eradication by 2000

BEIJING (AFP) — More than 1,000 leprosy experts met in Beijing Monday to plan the total eradication of the infectious disease which still affects two million people worldwide.

Under the theme of "Creating a Leprosy-Free World," the experts are working towards eliminating the disease that attacks the skin, flesh and nerves, by the turn of the century.

"The 730 foreign delegates and their 400 Chinese counterparts will spend the next week coordinating eradication plans," a Chinese official on the organising committee of the 100th International Leprosy Congress said.

The World Health Organisation has set 2000 as its goal for the total eradication of leprosy, which is relatively easy to treat if caught in

the early stages.

Although numbers of leprosy have fallen sharply from 10 to 12 million sufferers in the mid-1980s to around two million, leprosy continues to attack the poorest regions of the world.

Upmost in the experts' discussions will be continued use of and funding for a combination of three drugs — rifampicin, dapsone and clofazimine — which

have been extremely effective in curing 8.5 million leprosy in the last decade.

India and Brazil are the countries worst hit by leprosy, which subsists in 60 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Host China has already had marked success in treating the disease with numbers of leprosy falling from an estimated 390,000 in 1957 to only 4,045 in 1997.

About 1,800 new cases were detected in 1997, down from 35,000 in 1958.

"In China, some 85 per cent of counties and cities have kept the rate of leprosy infection at under one per 100,000 people, and the goal is that 95 per cent of cities and counties will be under this rate by the year 2000," the official said.

"Our main problems

are in poor, remote areas with bad communications and China is pushing to give these areas the necessary support, and enough funding to allow swift treatment," he added.

Leprosy is an infectious disease that has attacked human beings for more than 3,000 years and is transmitted by long-term exposure to a patient with a chronic form of the bacterial disease.

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View from the Fourth Circle

Why peacemaking persists five years on

Rami G. Khouri

WHAT CAN we learn from the experience since September 1993, when the current Palestinian-Israeli peace process was launched with the signing of the Oslo accord five years ago this week?

The most significant thing today is that the Oslo process persists — despite interruptions, bitter mutual accusations of bad faith, routine outbreaks of political, moral, intellectual, and physical violence, and the many reasons both sides had to bring it to a halt.

Politically, the Oslo process has proved to be deeply flawed — yet equally durable. Why is this? Why is it that we have experienced five years of continuous negotiations and implementation of signed accords, and this week stand on the verge of yet another interim agreement that will see the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank reversed by another 13 per cent?

This enduring phenomenon reflects several simultaneous factors: a) the historic recognition by most Israelis and Palestinians that their conflict cannot be resolved through warfare or occupation, b) the Oslo accord is the first such diplomatic framework that promised, and has started, to address the legitimate national rights of both parties; it is the only mechanism this century that has responded to the Palestinian need to start to reverse the demographic and geographic Zionisation of all Palestine, and the Jewish-Israeli need to be recognised and accepted by the Palestinians and to interact in normalcy with neighbouring Arab states, and, c) Palestinian-Israeli peace-making is now firmly based on the principle of 'land for peace' that is accepted by all the negotiating parties (if with differing interpretations), and is actively supported by the direct participation of all key regional and international parties.

These achievements since September 1993 are offset by negative developments. The balance sheet of peace-making in Israel, Palestine, and the two Arab states (Egypt and Jordan) that have made peace with Israel is very mixed.

reflecting flaws in the implementation of the Oslo accord and serious mutual disappointments with the situation today. The Jordanian and Egyptian cases suggest that a cold and hesitant peace with Israel is a real option for many Arabs. This reflects widespread Arab resentment and disappointment with the Netanyahu government's policy on the Palestinians, Lebanon and Syria — a policy that most Arabs see as being arrogant, unfair, hard-line, unrealistic, Apartheid-like, and territorially colonial and predatory. The Arab World is increasingly frustrated that Israel appears able to defy the world's will and to persist in its aggressive policies of building and expanding colonies, Judaizing Jerusalem, demolishing Palestinian houses, revoking residency rights of Palestinians in Jerusalem, occupying south Lebanon and the Golan Heights, and other such unacceptable or illegal acts.

The dominant Arab perspective on the Oslo process five years on is increasing scepticism about its validity, because Israel seems to seek a peace that provides Israelis and Arabs with unequal rights of sovereignty, security and national dignity — with Israelis enjoying more territorial, national, religious, and security rights than the Palestinians. This is a recipe for collapse and a return to routine warfare.

If the Oslo peace process is to succeed, and regain the wider Middle Eastern support that it enjoyed in 1995, it must be firmly re-anchored in the principles of land-for-peace, equality, and simultaneity. Both parties must know that this process will allow them ultimately to enjoy the same quality of national and personal rights, and security. Steps towards that goal must take place on both sides at the same time. The Palestinians, like the Israelis, must live in a viable state defined by contiguous land, real sovereignty, freedom of movement, and controls over economic assets, water, residency rights, and other such dimensions of a state's total security.

The security, well-being, theology, or mythology of one

side cannot take priority over the other's; we cannot anticipate a permanent peace if the Israelis continue to insist that Palestinian rights can only be implemented after the Palestinians prove that they are working overtime to ensure the security of Israel. The security of Israel is one of the key goals of the peace process, but it is neither the primary nor a priority goal that takes precedence over the security, sovereignty, or territorial integrity of the Palestinians. This is the full meaning of 'reciprocity' as the Arab side understands it and wishes to see it implemented: the peace process will succeed only if it ultimately delivers equal and balanced rights to all the parties, in terms of both sovereignty and security.

Nevertheless, this is a moment of unprecedented historical gains for Palestinians and Israelis. Never before have the Jewish people and their state of Israel been so strong, internationally recognised, slowly gaining acceptance among their immediate neighbours, and enjoying full civil and political rights around the world. The Palestinians are universally recognised as having the right to national self-determination and statehood, are slowly gaining real control and quasi-sovereignty over major parts of Palestine, enjoy substantial international diplomatic and economic support in their quest for sustainable statehood, and are addressing their own national identity and needs according to their own priorities. This is why the Oslo process — flaws and all — continues as the only diplomatic game in town.

We should not allow current disappointments with the tone or trajectory of peace-making in Palestine and Israel to hide the achievements of the past five years. On this occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Oslo accord, it's reasonable and even fashionable to be pessimistic in our prognosis, OK to be angry in our emotions — but important to be accurate in our analysis of the facts on the ground.

Security for all

HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has effectively put an end to all speculations and assumptions about new pacts, alliances or axes in the Middle East to which Jordan would be party. During the official dinner for visiting Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz and his delegation, the Prince made it clear that what Jordan strives for is the creation of a new regional order that is inclusive of all the states in the area and exclusive of none of them.

The kind of new Middle Eastern order that Jordan aspires for would include Iraq, Iran and Syria and would extend from Morocco in the west to the central Asian republics in the east. The ultimate purpose of the new order would be to articulate an enlightened definition of what constitutes security to ensure, as the Regent put it, that security is not about arms and military superiority but ultimately about human dignity.

That is why the battle against terrorism, on the top of the agenda of several countries in the region and elsewhere, should be addressed differently by eliminating its root causes rather than only suppressing its symptoms.

What this wider region therefore needs is a mechanism, modelled after the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) that helped during the cold war to avert crises turning into conflicts between western and eastern Europe.

Such mechanism should aim at introducing confidence-building measures between the countries of region, should identify crises and, if possible, resolve them before they turn into armed conflicts.

Jordan did not, and is not promoting pacts. It is promoting conflict prevention centres, conflict resolution centres, and a regional conversation through which all countries of the area will articulate a code of conduct that will comprehensively address absolute, and significant issues of concern. This new methodology will simply make the Middle East a safer and better place in which to live.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Ra'i's Fahed Faneh said that what Minister of Information Nasser Judeh identified as corruption, in his weekly briefing to the press last week, was not, in fact, corruption, but mere crimes. Faneh said embezzlement, swindling, forgery of passports and currency constitute crime, but not corruption. The writer identified corruption as the abuse of authority, position, influence, or personal relations to make money. Examples would be placing bids for companies or buying specific kinds of machinery whilst taking a commission for the signed contract, said Faneh. Smuggling of weapons, drugs or antiquities is illegal trade, it is not considered corruption, unless a government official — whether from the customs department or any other officer at the borders — took part in the crime by facilitating the smuggling.

Al Dustour's Rakun Majali said the Palestinian question became a bi-national issue between the Palestinian National Authority and Israel, after the Oslo Accord was signed. Whereas before everybody was concerned about the rights of the Palestinian people to a home land, the whole question has now been reduced to international criticism, rejection and condemnation of the Israeli hardline policies in not bowing to the Oslo Accord, said the writer, who added that Israel should feel obliged to the world for legitimising its existence, instead of criticising the South African President, Nelson Mandela, when calling for Israel to abide by its previous commitments vis-a-vis the peace process. After the Oslo Accord, Arab countries recognised the right of existence of the Jewish state. Subsequently, all United Nations decision calling for Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied in 1948 became invalid, said Majali.



The need for the Non-Aligned Movement

By Pascal B. Karney

THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT (NAM) held its 12th meeting in Durban, South Africa under the chairmanship of Nelson Mandela the President of South Africa, on 3 and 4 September with the participation of 113 states. When NAM held its first conference at Bandung, Indonesia April 1955 — attended by the Third World leaders mainly Gamal Abdul Nasser of Egypt, Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Broz Tito of Yugoslavia, Sukarno of Indonesia, and Chou En Lai of China. — its purpose was not to align their states with either the USA or with the Soviet Union at the time of the Cold War. The movement intended to formulate a concerted policy of 'positive neutrality' between the Western powers and the Communist Bloc. It held subsequent meetings in Belgrade 1961, in Cairo in 1964, Lusaka Zambia in 1970.

Most of the states of the movement which had held their conference at Bandung had recently won independence from the colonial powers. They declared their right to existence and freedom, and they wanted to play a role in world affairs especially in view of the international tension then prevailing in the world. They expressed their desire for the maintenance of peace especially in view of the incapacity and failure of the two superpowers, the USA and the Soviet Union to maintain a minimum of international harmony.

The main characteristic of NAM, which at Belgrade represented about a billion people in Africa and Asia, was non-alignment with either of the said two superpowers. The states comprising NAM did not form part of a military organisation or a military alliance which might have been established within the context of the Cold War. The policy of the movement was directed towards securing international peace based on peaceful co-existence which implied principles of mutual respect, non-interference in internal affairs of states, non-aggression and reciprocal equality between states. It must not be forgotten that NAM has played a crucial role in fighting imperialism and colonialism, radicalism while defending self-determination of peoples.

Since the end of the Cold War, the movement has had a limited political role if it has not entirely lost it. In addition, several conflicts arose between some of its members, and its

meetings no longer attracted the attention of the Western powers. At the height of its influence, especially during the life of the Third World stalwart leaders mentioned above, the superpowers used to send official envoys to influence the members and to pressure them from attacking one or other of the two superpowers. After the death of its protagonist leaders the movement's influence began to wane. It continued however, to exist, but with no effectual influence on world affairs.

To enable it to play some effective role in world affairs the movement must be rejuvenated on a new basis and must establish different directions inasmuch as the Cold War is no longer existent. It must now pay attention to its own members and tackle the many problems which they face individually or collectively. And as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Africa Alfred N'Zo has said: "The NAM must be more constructive and more dynamic."

There is no doubt that President Nelson Mandela who hosted the conference has enhanced its moral and political standing, but it will not be able to play an effective role in world affairs unless it endeavours to solve its own problems, develop cooperation between member states politically, commercially, and financially. Otherwise, the world will simply ignore it. It was wise then, that the movement has in particular addressed the necessity of relieving the unbearable debt of poor developing countries, among other issues of importance. On this note, Nelson Mandela stressed that globalisation is the major threat to developing economies, while the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, has warned during the meeting that globalisation and liberalisation should not be a one way street — in other words industrialised countries must open their markets to the goods of the developing countries.

Notwithstanding the fact that some writers consider the final statement of the NAM conference at Durban as embodying mere theories with no practical solutions, it is nevertheless wise for capitalist countries, especially the G7, to heed the exhortations in that final statement.

The writer was an advocate in Palestine in 1944 and, for many years, legal officer at UNRWA headquarters in Beirut and Vienna. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Malta: The Curse of Mintoff

By Gwynne Dyer

MARKETS CRASH around the world. North Korean rockets fly over Japan, and Russia stumbles towards the abyss, but at least one crisis has been settled. Malta has shaken off the curse of Mintoff.

"We have to put people's minds at rest and deliver them from their nightmare of higher water and electricity bills," Nationalist Party leader Eddie Fenech Adami told supporters after being sworn in as Malta's new prime minister on Sunday night. Not very nightmarish, as nightmares go, but then Malta doesn't go far itself: the Mediterranean island group is only 24 km across. It wasn't just about water and electricity bills, though. It was about whether the Knights of Malta could create the world's smallest mini-state on Maltese territory, and whether Malta should join the European Union or go on consorting with neighbours like Muammar Qadhafi of Libya — and, above all, whether Dom Mintoff would finally stop haunting his colleagues and the country.

Mintoff first ran for election 53 years ago. In the 1950s, when Malta was still under British colonial rule, he led his Labour Party to power promising complete integration with the United Kingdom. When London refused, he resigned — and never forgave it. Back in power in 1962, he led Malta to independence two years later on a tide of anti-Western rhetoric, closed down NATO bases on the islands, and proceeded to forge close ties with Libya. And most of his supporters followed him through this roller-coaster ride of changing loyalties without any apparent queasiness.

There are only 370,000 Maltese, and their history is full of war (because of their strategic position between the eastern and the western Mediterranean) and foreign domination (because they are so few). They are a complex, subtle people, deeply Catholic by religion but speaking a language related to Arabic, and over the centuries they got used to dealing with all foreigners on a pragmatic basis, not an emotional one.

During the Second World War, the Maltese withstood daily bombing raids so bravely that Britain awarded the whole population the George Cross for valour. Four centuries before, they fought the Turks just as bravely under the leadership of foreign Crusaders. But

they never loved either the British or the Crusaders; they have learned to think in terms of interests, not affections.

Except for Dom Mintoff. Much of Malta's history for the past 30 years, both domestic and foreign, has been an exhausting psychodrama in which Mintoff jerked the entire country around in order to punish those who hurt his feelings and reward those who buttered him up. He got away

Mintoff jerked the entire country around in order to punish those who hurt his feelings

with it because political loyalties in Malta are intense and hereditary: most Labour supporters could not bring themselves to vote Nationalist no matter what Mintoff did.

Even after he retired as prime minister in 1984, Dom Mintoff waged a tireless struggle to impose his own prejudices on the party. His constant sniping from the back benches helped to bring Labour down in the late 80s, and led to nine years of Nationalist rule during which Eddie Fenech Adami downgraded ties with Libya and applied to join the European Union. Mintoff had become a liability to the Labour Party, but he couldn't stop. Labour returned to power in 1996 under a new leader, Alfred Sant, a Harvard Business School graduate who is the precise antithesis of Mintoff — but Sant had only a one-seat majority in parliament and that seat was held by Mintoff, elected as usual by the loyal trade unionists of his dockyards constituency in Valetta.

Sant froze Malta's EU application, but he was unmistakably 'new Labour' and Mintoff could not stand him. The aged ex-leader nearly brought the government down last year over higher utility taxes — and he finally did bring it down in July, after a six-hour attack on Sant's leadership, over the question of the

Crusaders. The Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of St John of Jerusalem, of Rhodes and of Malta, founded in the 11th century, took over Malta in 1530 in a last-ditch attempt to stop Turkey's westward expansion in the Mediterranean. It worked: the Knights of Malta held out in their great Maltese stronghold, Fort St. Angelo, to the end of the Great Siege of 1565, turning the Turks back for good — and then ruled Malta until Napoleon expelled them in 1798.

Now, on the 900th anniversary of their foundation, the Knights want to come back — and their Order is stronger than ever, with 10,000 members worldwide (all Catholic, and about half nobles) and an annual income of several billion dollars. Sant's government was inclined to let them return to Fort St. Angelo, for the sake of tax revenues and tourism — but Mintoff couldn't stand it.

The Knights would be a sovereign micro-state within the castle: they already issue their own passports, money and stamps, and have full diplomatic relations with 70 countries. It would all be happening within Dom Mintoff's own dockyards constituency, so he crossed the floor, brought Labour down less than two years into its five-year term, and precipitated an election which the Nationalists have won by what is, in Maltese terms, a landslide: 52 per cent of the vote, up from 48 per cent last time.

With a solid parliamentary majority, Fenech Adami will now reopen negotiations to join the European Union. "Not much has been achieved (since the EU started formal membership with six other countries in March)," observed Simon Busitt, leader of a pro-EU pressure group, "and Malta does not present particular problems for membership — so it can probably catch up and get on the same schedule as the others."

This is certainly not what Mintoff wanted, but it's probably what most Maltese want. (There will be a referendum on EU membership later.) The Knights of Malta will probably get what they want, too. And it's almost certainly the last time that Mintoff's prejudices drive Maltese politics. At 82, he did not run in this election.

The writer is an independent London-based journalist and historian, whose articles are published in 45 countries

Guilty verdict for teacher who turned to genocide

By Matthew Bigg
Reuters

THE CAREER of a Rwandan former mayor convicted last week of genocide by the U.N. tribunal pivots on a single day at the height of the killings.

Jean Paul Akayesu, the mayor of Taba commune in central Rwanda, was convicted last Tuesday of nine counts of genocide, incitement to genocide, crimes against humanity, violations of the Geneva Conventions, rape and sexual violence. He was acquitted on six counts. His case turns on a single day when on April 18, 1994, when he attended a meeting in the provincial capital, Gitarama, at which then Prime Minister Jean Kambanda urged Hutu communal leaders to put aside their political differences and work together against a common enemy.

Witnesses at Akayesu's trial — the first held by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda — told the court Kambanda's words were a code, inciting communal leaders to take up the work of killing Tutsis in full swing in the capital and in other parts of the country.

The speech had a profound effect on Akayesu.

"This case was a case of betrayal by Akayesu of his people," lead prosecutor Pierre Prosper of the United States told Reuters.

"Before 1994 most people said he was a decent guy... but in mid-April 1994 he turned and became a predator. We received a lot of testimony of citizens of Taba who went to him after massacres or losing all their family and he wasn't there for them," Prosper said.

Akayesu, born in Taba in 1953, worked as a teacher and school inspector prior to his appointment as mayor. As such he was little more than a minor civil servant in Rwanda's tightly-administered society, a trusted and respected leader across both sides of the ethnic divide in Taba despite his other position as local boss of the Democratic Republican Movement (MDR) party.

His authority enabled him to provide a bulwark against killings in Taba, particularly because the Interahamwe militiamen who were forcing the pace of massacres of Tutsis were working specifically for the former ruling party of slain president Juvenal Habyarimana.

Two people — one Tutsi and one Interahamwe — died in Taba on the night of April 18 and when Akayesu returned home he found two groups of Hutus both for and against the idea of starting massacres in the commune, witnesses told the court.

It was the critical moment at which Akayesu had the opportunity to exert his influence to maximum effect, Prosper said.

"At that moment Akayesu repeats Kambanda's speech. He made a cold and calculated decision to become a participant in the overall genocide. He viewed his job as getting it off the ground in Taba and after that day he was very active," Prosper said.

Akayesu, who took the stand in his trial that started in January 1997, denied charges of involvement. His defence counsel, Nicolas Tiangaye of the Central African Republic, argued Akayesu risked his life to save a few Tutsis in Taba, but his authority as mayor had been completely undermined by the intervention of the Hutu militiamen.

In all more than 2,000 people died in Taba, a tiny fraction of the 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus who were killed during the genocide. But the pattern of killings in Taba was in some ways representative. Witnesses told the court Akayesu issued orders to kill specific political opponents.

Many murders — including an initial eight clubbed to death — were killed in an around the communal office, their bodies dumped in mass graves. Tutsis who sought refuge in Taba commune — like Tutsis throughout the country who sought refuge at churches, schools and other symbols of state authority — found that their place of sanctuary became a slaughterhouse.

Around 300 women went to the Taba commune offices. Many were raped before they were killed, according to prosecution evidence.

In June 1994 Akayesu fled Taba before the advancing Rwandan Patriotic Front army, which later took power.

He entered the former Zaire via the western town of Kibuye after being given a new passport — a detail the prosecution argued suggested he remained on good terms with the Hutu interim government until the end.

From Zaire he went to Zambia where he was arrested in October 1995 on the advice of the Rwandan ambassador in South Africa.

During his trial Akayesu — a tall imposing man, remained a commanding presence, studying books in court on international law — and intimidating witnesses who had been peasants in his commune.

"He is smart," Prosper said. "Under cross-examination he wove the facts around the evidence not only to answer but also to preempt further questions."

"He is a brilliant, confident, not to say arrogant man and he thought he could talk his way out of it," Prosper said.

Judeh rejects Syrian allegations of 'military alliance' with Turkey

(Continued from page 1)

If there are security and military arrangements between Turkey and Israel then this is their business.

Jordanian-Syrian tensions have ebbed and flowed for decades due to ideological rivalries, but have soured since Jordan's signing of its 1994 peace treaty with Israel.

Syria has since stepped up its media campaign against Jordan. While the Jordanian media has not retaliated, officials in Amman have maintained that Damascus was also negotiating with Israel with the eventual aim of securing its own peace deal.

Moreover, Jordan has long complained that Syria meddles in the internal affairs of the Kingdom and tacitly funds groups that destabilise the country, while Damascus accuses Amman of breaking away from the regional Arab order and working against the interests of Arab nationalism and unity.

Close military cooperation between Jordan and Turkey has done little to tone down Syria's accusations that Amman, Ankara, and Tel Aviv are forging an alliance that aims to strategically isolate it.

But Khatib, hinting at neighbouring countries' apprehension and sensitivities towards Jordan's foreign policies, said dialogue is the key to clarifying any misunderstanding between the Kingdom and any other state in the region.

On his recent visit to South Africa where he attended the Non-Aligned Movement summit, Khatib told members of the press the conference condemned terrorism in all its forms, and suggested holding an international summit to combat terrorism.

Russian Duma votes against Chernomyrdin

(Continued from page 1)

listened to opposition calls for an alternative candidate for prime minister.

"The situation in the country is the result of the course carried out by Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin in the past few years," he said before the vote. "We are on the verge of catastrophe and collapse."

Yeltsin defended Chernomyrdin's candidacy and said he wouldn't nominate anyone else. Chernomyrdin held the post of premier for five years before being dismissed in March.

If the Duma rejects the president's candidate on the third vote, then the constitution calls for the president to dissolve the Duma and call new elections within three months.

Yeltsin would effectively rule by decree during the interim.

Chernomyrdin, speaking on national television Sunday, warned that further delay in forming a new government would exacerbate the nation's economic woes to such a degree that extreme nationalist forces might try to take advantage of the turmoil and seize power.

"They will not spare anyone. That would be a tragedy and catastrophe for Russia," Chernomyrdin said.

He also stressed that Russia still wants aid and cooperation from the West to help ease the economic crisis, which has seen the ruble collapse and prices soar.

Meanwhile, the Russian Central Bank cancelled hard currency trading on Monday as traders wanted only to buy dollars, not to sell them. However, currency exchange booths on the streets remained open.

At the start of Monday's trading, the ruble was quoted at 20 to the U.S. dollar, down from 17 to the dollar on Friday. Deals which are to take effect on Tuesday pegged the rate as low as 30 rubles a dollar.

The ruble was trading at just over six to the dollar when the crisis erupted less than a month ago.

Organised intimidation against foreign funding 'postpones' human rights seminar

(Continued from page 1)

The ins and outs of the most recent debacle is of little concern to participants who spent weeks preparing papers for the seminar, which was to be held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the declaration of human rights.

"The question is who should be allowed to dictate to everyone else what civic activities other people will engage in," says human rights activist Asma Khader, who had planned a lecture on the identification of the State of Jordanian Society Through Signed Agreements and its Commitment to Signed Documents, Exemptions or Reservations on Signed Agreements. "The question is not who funds activities, but what activities are being funded."

Today's agenda included lectures from Fahmi Howaidi, an Egyptian authority on Islam who planned to discuss the differences between the Islamic declaration of human rights and the international declaration; Sabri Rubeibat, a sociologist from Philadelphia University who was to lecture on the performance of the judicial system and police training in human rights; and researcher Hani Hourani, who planned to discuss the role of social institutions in protecting human rights in Arab countries.

Khader says it is not beyond doubt that some foreign funding does support specific priorities and agendas, however, she said for organisations like JUND, foreign support is crucial.

"Money, especially right now, is crucial," she says. "Show me the local money, and I'm sure we'll take it."

Mehyar says JUND's 100 members pay around JD11 in annual dues, hardly enough to fund half of today's scheduled seminar that included participants from abroad. Instead, Mehyar says the society relies on contributions from civic-minded citizens to support their activities. As the economic situation deteriorates, reliance on foreign money obviously increases.

"I want to make clear, however, that at no time did the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, which has supported us before, ever dictate the terms of how the money was spent or our agenda."

Khader blasted activists, who claim they are working in the name of safeguarding Jordanian democracy.

"The irony is that [activists] who work in the name of democracy play into the hands of the government, which is happy because the activists themselves prevent the independent and civil society from acting and growing."

"They can't target the real enemies, so they search for the weakest link in the chain and play on those feelings," she said. "And this is going to get worse, especially if our institutions continue their misguided way of dealing with the problem."

Opposition deputies rally to petition review of new press law

(Continued from page 1)

Journalists complained that they had no idea about where the remaining 32 deputies stood on the issue of the press law.

Deputy Mahmoud Kharabsheh (Balqa), who headed the Lower House National Guidance Committee, which made most of the amendments to the government-sponsored draft, said some deputies had been coordinating with members of the press on how to best confront the law. The Jordan Press Association today is expected to host a press conference and endorse the idea of a Lower House petition.

Press reports yesterday said some deputies planned to tie their confidence votes to the issue of the press law, but opposition Deputy Mohammad Oran (Tafilah) said this was not an organised decision at this point.

"It is really too soon to make a decision about that, and this will probably depend on our meetings with Prime Minister Fayez Tarawneh," said Oran.

"The issue of the press law will be one of the top priorities of our agenda when we meet him. We are, however, committed to confronting this law in one way or another."

Opposition deputies are expected to meet Tarawneh tonight following a regular Cabinet session.

Environment

Disease and fear grip Bangladesh's flood victims

By Nadeem Qadir
Agence France Presse

BDANGLADESH'S WORST floods have not only left hundreds dead, but survivors have been plagued by diseases and fear for more than two months, and the situation is worsening as rivers swell.

"I have a torch and a stick to ensure safe journey back home at night because I use a rickshaw, then a boat and then walk through waist-deep dirty water," said Mohammad Faiz, a resident of one of the worst-hit areas.

Many have fallen into the dirty water when small boats overturned or rickshaw drivers tripped in submerged pot holes or drains.

Diarrhoea, other water-borne diseases and sores have become rampant.

More than two-thirds of Bangladesh is now under water. More than 700 people have died, 116 of them from diarrhoea out of more than 152,000 infected, and a quarter of the 124 million population has been severely hit by the floods.

Diarrhoea kills by dehydration and is fatal unless treated quickly.

Dhaka's International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases and Research, Bangladesh said more than three patients were reporting ill every minute.

"At normal times a maximum of 100 or so patients reported to the centre, but now the number has gone up to almost 1,000 per day," one doctor said.

A team from the Army Medical Corps has set up an emergency adjunct at the centre to help cope with the situation. Patients are given a solution of salt and sugar or a bottle of "rice saline."

They have also set up water treatment plants.

The United Nations said drinking water was in short supply, while residents fear that with pipes under water for weeks, water might have been contaminated.

Other diseases reported are dysentery, intestinal worms, skin infection, eye and ear infection, malaria and fever.

State Minister for Health M. Amanullah told the Daily Star newspaper the situation was "worse this year compared to the previous ones."

Doctors said 116 mobile teams were deployed and the worst was yet to come when the water receded.

Monir Hossain, a former rickshaw-puller, said his foot had skin sores he developed after "horrible itching" for days.

In cramped flood shelters near Dhaka, new arrivals were reported Sunday as victims who had managed to stay on rooftops were forced from their homes by rising water. Health workers fear the situation would deteriorate.

The United Nations had described the condition in the shelters as "distressingly cramped and unhygienic."

A health official said bleaching powder was being distributed to disinfect shelters.

"Hey, boat, Hey, boat," is the call heard during peak hours in the flooded areas of Dhaka.

There are more "boat stops" than bus stops or taxi stands in this city of nine million people, with more than two-thirds of it swamped by flood water. Regular "boat jams" delay trips by up to 30 minutes.

"It looks like Venice," one Western journalist said.

Men and women venture out fearing drowning or other accidents in black, foul-smelling flood water mixed with sewer overflow. Snake bites are another risk.

A dozen people have died by electrocution in the past days, with live wires submerged in waters.

The floods in the Ganges river are worsening amid heavy downpours upstream. The deluge is set to last until the end of September.



Bridge could change Nile island lifestyle

By Matthew Green
Reuters

FOR CENTURIES Tuti islanders have lived a cloistered life, cut off from Sudan's capital Khartoum by the treacherous waters of the Nile.

Now residents say a planned bridge to the city, approved by a government study but not yet financed, could bring them the best and worst of the 21st century.

"We are all one family, so when people come from outside, everything will change," said Abdel Moneim, a lifelong resident of the 1,000 hectare island.

Many islanders share his fear that the last ferry to cross from Khartoum will mark the end of an age-old way of life.

Tuti is just a few minutes' ferry ride from the high-rise blocks and fumes of the city, but still feels like a village.

Stepping ashore is to step back in time. Donkey carts ply sandy tracks between crumbling houses. Men clad in white robes and turbans amble home from mid-day prayers at the mosque in the middle of the island. There are just 25 cars for 30,000 people.

The bridge could change all that.

"Tutians have deeply-seated roots," said Abdullahi Zaki, a doctor from the island. "Historically we are the first inhabitants of the Khartoum area." As the capital's population increases and land gets scarcer, the identity of the original settlers is disputed.

But there is no doubt that Tutians have been around a long time. Many trace their family trees to a single founding clan they say arrived from northern Sudan six centuries ago.

Nowadays the island's winding lanes are filled with the faces of people from all over Sudan, many with traditional scarifiers that distinguish them from Tuti's older inhabitants.

Despite their diversity, islanders show a strong sense of kinship. Some fear the bridge will destroy their community's bonds by bringing an influx of outsiders.

"People co-operate with each other. If your neighbour has no food, you give it to him," says retired engineer Qurashi Abbas.

"If you make a bridge, everyone will think of himself." Most people in Khartoum are struggling to survive in a harsh economic climate. Across the clay-coloured river in Tuti, a slower rhythm of life has been handed down intact for centuries.

Men meet to recite Koranic verses in the same courtyards on the same dates as their great-grandfathers did. Hundreds of relations gather for weddings, men and women feasting apart.

"Now there are poor people coming. The bridge will bring rich people," said Moneim.

Until now the Nile has protected Tuti from the pressure of Khartoum's population, estimated at about four million.

Islanders believe the bridge will push up land prices and drive out poorer Tutians to be replaced by outsiders.

Orchards and gardens that provide a haven from Khartoum's heat would be torn up for housing, even though 1988 floods showed the danger to buildings near the shore.

"Forty years ago this was a green area," said ex-army officer Hussein el-Fadul. "I think houses will go up to the Nile." For all the talk of disruption, not all Tuti's inhabitants oppose the bridge, which would cut the cost of goods from the capital and bring a new piped water supply.

Some say it could protect the island by making it easier to import materials for building flood defences against the Nile.

Others look forward to an end to their isolation. Students complain of time wasted commuting to schools in Khartoum. "If you are ill at night, you cannot get to a hospital," said Abbas.

At sunset the muezzin calls and Tutians kneel as one to pray. In the sudden silence, city traffic is faintly audible across the water and Khartoum's Hilton Hotel looms above a fringe of palm trees. Already a huge Coca-Cola hoarding dominates Tuti's ferry landing.

For the moment, the bridge remains ink on paper. Sudan's strained relations with donors and its chronic economic crisis may keep it that way and leave Tuti to its own devices.

"Everything is ready for the bridge, specifications, drawings," said Abbas. "We just need \$2 million." Khartoum is cluttered with the concrete skeletons of unfinished buildings. The silence on the construction sites suggests money for the bridge may be a long time coming.

7/09/98 18:26

MLG	FRP
2.15	1.9450
7.61	1.1287
5.80	3.2416
7.37	137.96
1.91	147.64
0.80	1.4551
4.15	11.42
3.63	33.6300

LBP	EGP
6727	1517.00
1801	2139.63
1.98	404.48
3.74	4024.19
1.01	416.76
2.08	4988.49
4210	413.05
0.086	448.43

CHF	JPY
1.1808	0.37622
1.6319	0.38419
39083	4.84037
39983	3.74251
1.174	2.7633

High	Low	Pr Ch
7760.75	7495.81	78822
991.41	958.51	982.8
5332.8	5204.5	517
14790.1	13912.7	14042
3760.36	3663.93	3683.4
8000.87	4576.81	4823.8

Buy	Sell
0.708	0.716
1.1837	1.188
0.4101	0.412
0.4993	0.501
0.1223	0.123
0.5336	0.538
0.3834	0.388
0.4154	0.417

Source: Central Bank of Jordan

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Widening of sales tax base expected to push up prices of popular public food and any services

BUSINESS LEADERS have rejected the government decision which widened the network of businesses that are required to pay sales tax and stressed that the decision will lead to higher prices on a large number of products and services and will increase the burden on limited income groups in particular.

The businessmen expressed their concern that the decision would raise the rate of sales tax and they criticised the widening of the base for the tax in light of current difficult economic conditions.

Meanwhile, the industrialists expressed their support for the decision as it will speed up the process for the government to exempt all production inputs from customs as they have been demanding for many years. At the time, the industrialists reaffirmed their rejection of any increase in sales tax.

The decision to widen the base for the sales tax would affect hotels, restaurants, food and drinks, real estate offices, car rental offices, tourist transport companies, mail courier operations, consultancy services as well as engineering and other technical services. The additional income should cover the gap of JD86 million which the treasury will lose as a result of exempting production inputs from customs. Should the amount be less, the government will have to look for other alternatives to make up for the shortfall.

Filal Jamar, the manager of the association grouping owners of restaurants said the decision will automatically raise the prices of popular foods. He explained that the restaurant which did not pay sales tax in the past will charge the customer for the difference as a result of having to pay tax now. "This decision threatens to close many public restaurants and shops and will limit tourist groups to 5-star level and above," he said.

Salameh Jundi, president of the association grouping car dealers and traders of spare parts, said the decision came at the wrong time and will be a new burden on the people as it will raise costs for services that people need daily. He demanded that the method of calculating and collecting the sales tax be reconsidered so as to be on goods actually sold and not to be taken in advance as that would not be different from levying customs fees. He added that many traders suffer from keeping inventories for a long time. As such, he asked, how could the tax be a sales tax if the goods are not in essence sold?

Hani Khalili, president of the association grouping traders of electrical and electronic appliances affirmed that the decision will undoubtedly affect the consumer but, he said that the alternatives are limited to compensate the treasury for the estimated JD86 million loss in revenue. Khalili explained that the measure was in line with the new world drive to free international trade and raise local taxes.

Khalili said that opposition to the decision was a result of people being unprepared especially under the present difficult conditions. "The decision will be tough on the consumer but the government has no other choice but to plug the expected financial shortfall," he added urging both the private and public sectors to cooperate in implementing the move without harming the interests of the private sector and, at the time, to fulfil the government's general policy drawn a long time ago.

Mohammad Tall, president of the Zarga Chamber of Industry, strongly supported the decision describing it as fair and treating all traders equally. He said the decision will speed up the process of exempting all industrial inputs from customs. However, Tall emphasised that the industrialists reject higher sales tax or imposing any other taxes as that will be a heavy burden on both the merchants and manufacturers at the same time (Al-Dustour).

Dubai traders feel pinch of Iran-Afghan tension

DUBAI (R) — Traders in Dubai, the Gulf's re-export hub, said on Monday that tension between the Afghan Taliban movement and Iran was threatening their lucrative trade with Afghanistan.

"We are hurt, but if tension persists, we expect a 35 per cent drop in our re-exports to Afghanistan," one trader in the Arab emirate told Reuters.

"The decline could be more steep if Tehran decides to ban transit trade to Afghanistan," he said.

"Re-exports to Afghanistan through Iran account for more than 20 per cent of our business," the trader said, adding that his company was now holding back on shipments through Iran.

Tension has mounted between Iran and Afghanistan since the disappearance of 11 Iranian diplomats and one journalist during the Taliban's takeover of the northern opposition stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif a month ago.

Iran has charged that the Taliban took the Iranians hostage.

It staged war games last week involving 70,000 Revolutionary Guards on the border with Afghanistan as a warning. The bulk of the troops have stayed in the border area.

The Islamic Taliban militia, which now controls most of Afghanistan, denied the Iranian charges, but the movement's leader said the Iranians were "probably dead."

Another trader said Dubai-based companies doing business with Afghanistan were seriously considering alternative routes through Pakistan.

"It is a more expensive route, but it is free of political risks," he said.

Traders say more than 80 Dubai-based firms do business with landlocked Afghanistan, usually routing their goods via Iran on the opposite side of the Gulf from Dubai.

The Gulf emirate is a major source of food, spare parts, electronic equipment and household goods imported by Afghanistan, which has no import restrictions.

Dubai traders say most of the goods imported by Afghans are then smuggled to Pakistan or re-sold in Iran.

One trader estimated the value of the re-export trade between Dubai and Afghanistan at about \$300 million a year.

"Tyres top the list of re-exports to Afghanistan followed by other spare parts and electronic equipment," he said.

He said his company ships more than 75 40-foot containers to Afghanistan each year.

New derivatives guidelines issued amid growing concern over risks

BASLE, Switzerland (AFP) — Worried about the risks posed by mammoth derivatives markets, the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision has released updated guidelines for monitoring derivatives trading at banks and securities firms.

The committee is made up of banking supervisory authorities set up by the central bank governors of the Group of Ten countries in 1975.

The revised version of its May 1995 "supervisory information framework" is the latest in a series of steps it has taken with the International Organisation of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) to monitor and improve risk management of derivatives trading.

The guidelines contain examples of the types of information that the two committees deem should be available within firms engaged in derivatives trade or "with significant exposure to market risks."

The initiative comes amid a boom in the trading of derivatives which are instruments — often extremely complex — used by firms to hedge risks on underlying products, be they shares, currencies or bonds.

For instance, the amount outstanding of futures contracts traded on organised exchanges as of March 1998 totalled \$8.6 trillion, up from \$6 trillion in December 1996, according to the latest quarterly banking report of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Turnover on futures markets globally reached a mindboggling \$82.2 trillion in the first quarter of this year, and \$294 trillion for the whole of 1997, according to BIS figures.

The value of options instruments outstanding totalled almost \$5 trillion at end March 1998.

Given this expansion, "it is important that supervisors further improve their understanding of how such activities affect the overall risk profile and profitability of banks and securities firms," a committee statement said.

Derivatives deals are not generally featured on banks' balance sheets, and are thus not covered by standard BIS bank capital asset reserve ratios.

While the BIS has reported in the past that derivatives markets play a vital function in spreading sophisticated globalisation, the complexity and scale of such dealings have created a significant systemic risk.

If one link in the chain were to break down, it could have serious repercussions on counterparties.

Many Japanese banks have large derivatives books, which could aggravate an already precarious bad loan problem.

Sources close to the BIS said the outstanding notional value of derivatives deals at 330 Japanese banks was almost \$4 trillion.

Some 24 banks accounted for 75 per cent of the total figure, the sources said, which works out to an average of around \$165 billion among these banks.

Recently, the head of the troubled Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd. (LTCB) revealed to a parliamentary committee that the bank's notional value of derivatives was 40 trillion yen (\$284 billion).

"No banks with this much trade have ever failed suddenly. I feel very scared," said LTCB's president Katsumoto Onogi who was appealing for taxpayers' funds to bail out his institution.

The Asian financial crisis continued to focus market attention on credit derivatives, the BIS said in its latest report.

"The weakness of the Japanese financial system, particularly following new disclosures of non-performing loans and downgrading of banks, reportedly led market participants to seek active credit protection on the liabilities of Japanese banks and non-financial corporations," the report said.

The British Bankers Association estimates that the outstanding stock of such derivatives reached \$170 billion at the end of 1997 compared to \$40 to \$50 billion at the end of 1996.

The revised framework features a "catalogue of data" relevant for evaluation risks present in trading and derivatives activities.

It suggests ways for supervisors to collect information, such as on-site examinations, external audits, discussions with institutions, and special surveys.

Unlike the original framework, the 1998 update addresses the market risk exposure arising from trading in both cash and derivative instruments. The statement said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1998

Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.

Aries (March 21 to April 19) You look marvellous. You are 20 times more energetic than any normal human being. You'll have to exercise self-discipline. Use your power in a productive way. Make service your first priority. Communicate your enthusiasm and pour it into useful activities. A quiet night now would be heading in the wrong direction.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) An acquaintance could tell you find something you want for your home. But he or she might tell you what you can't rather than point you in the right direction. This isn't as complex as it sounds. Just let people know what you want. Then consider the rejection as important as the acceptance.

Gemini (May 21 to June 21) You have a good sense of what a quiet friend needs. These types don't often speak up for themselves, so you become their representative. Don't be intimidated by an outspoken person. Make sure the minority position is voiced before any big decisions are made, even if this causes a delay. Tomorrow's better for decisions anyway.

Cancer (June 22 to July 21) You're smart right now, and you'll need every bit of that intelligence. Someone wants to know every detail of a recent transaction. Plan ahead by figuring out the bottom line. Where's the money? Who's got it? Who wants it? How much will be needed? The more information you have, the better impression you'll make.

Leo (July 22 to August 21) The moon's still in Aries, bringing out your feisty side. Aries makes you think you can do anything — then actually get out there and try. You could take on a challenge greater than any you've ever attempted. Make sure you have your parachute packed by an expert. It's OK to be adventurous, but don't be foolish.

Virgo (August 22 to September 21) You're in a good spot to see what your future holds. Today, you could figure out how to get the money you need by working with a partner. Even something you've been dreaming about may be possible. It'll take a little while in the beginning, but you might as well get started. It won't get any easier.

Libra (September 22 to October 21) It looks like something needs to be handled in private, with an aggressive person. This is a conversation you should have had by now. Stop procrastinating and get started on it ASAP. If you remember to come from love, your communication will be far more effective.

Scorpio (October 22 to November 21) The moon is in Aries. Sometimes that's uncomfortable, but it's always empowering. Aries and Scorpio are both ruled by Mars, so when you two get together, awesome things happen. Even your clashes can be invigorating. Today, use the power you generate to serve others and you'll make miracles happen.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) You're being pushed to succeed, whether you want to or not. This could mean more money for you, and more responsibility. You don't mind the money part, but you may be a little worried about the other. Don't be alarmed. You'll get used to it. And you'll be much better at this new assignment than you think.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 20) It looks like you could find a household item you've been seeking. It just means going a little farther away than usual. Or you could simply step up to the next higher price range. You hate going into debt, but in this case it might be a wise investment.

Aquarius (January 21 to February 19) It looks like a partner is coaxing you out of your comfort zone. You may not be getting nervous, but don't lose your cool. You may not be sure what to do next, but you can always learn. You're good at that, remember? Don't throw your money around, though. You may need it sooner than you think.

Pisces (February 20 to March 20) You're in the mood to buy gifts, and that can be dangerous. You could go through lots of money fast. Shop carefully. Find the perfect thing at a price you can afford. The other person will be delighted at your generosity no matter what you do. So you might as well make it work for you, too.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

Oman, India maintain plans for fertiliser plant

MUSCAT (AFP) — Oman and India have maintained their plans to build a jointly owned fertiliser plant in the sultanate despite a fall in oil prices, Oman's commerce and industry minister has said.

"Despite the drop in oil prices, the experts' reports show that this project is viable, which has encouraged both parties to maintain the plan," Maqbul ibn Ali Sultan said, quoted by the official OMA news agency.

The minister was speaking after a meeting with India's minister in charge of chemical matters Surjit Singh Barnala, who is visiting Oman.

The two countries will build the \$1.1 billion plant to the south of Muscat.

It is a joint venture between the state-owned Oman Oil Company, who will own half the plant, and India's Krishak Bharati Cooperative and Rashtriya Chemical and Fertilisers, who will each own a quarter of the plant.

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ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 07/09/1998

PART	12 MONTHS HIGH	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
S	355.500	170.000	ARAB BANK	18.3	4.89	17	340	75860	221.50	223.50	2.00+
S	2.100	1.620	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	13.3	4.27	2	300	492	1.64	1.64	-
S	6.510	2.610	JOR. HOUSING BK.	19.5	3.26	19	9766	29999	3.06	3.07	.01+
S	3.450	1.740	JOR. KUWAIT BANK	8	0.00	9	643	1136	1.76	1.80	.04+
S	870	1580	JOR. GULF BANK	9	0.00	6	12000	7200	1.40	1.40	-
S	3.980	1.690	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.5	0.00	8	1162	1987	1.71	1.71	-
S	3.900	1.350	JOR. INV. FID. BANK	22.6	3.40	9	1342	1940	1.44	1.47	.03+
S	.930	.650	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	P	0.00	21	32873	22311	.67	.68	.01+
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 294.13 %CHG: +0.79											
S	2.150	1.080	ROYAL LAND INSR.	8.2	0.00	4	14332	15765	1.10	1.10	-
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 127.16 %CHG: 0.00											
S	2.240	1.470	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.7	5.54	9	4046	6030	1.50	1.49	.01-
S	1.480	.740	ROYAL PORTFOLIO	30.3	0.00	18	14350	10918	.74	.76	.02+
S	1.120	.680	REAL ESTATE INV.	14.1	0.00	2	1600	1090	.73	.72	.01-
S	1.590	.290	JORDAN INTL. TRAD.	11.9	0.00	2	28250	8455	.29	.30	.02+
S	4.600	1.880	ARAB INTL. INV. EDUC.	9.7	2.05	1	1000	1950	1.95	1.95	-
S	1.070	.890	SARNA EDUCATION	20.8	0.00	2	1500	1350	.90	.90	-
S	1.830	1.060	UNIFIED CO.	5.0	9.73	3	950	1065	1.11	1.13	.02+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 108.52 %CHG: -0.03											
S	3.900	1.840	JOR. CHEST FACT.	11.4	5.70	1	1000	1930	1.93	1.93	-
S	11.250	10.050	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.2	6.45	13	6200	6521	10.52	10.52	-
S	7.350	5.900	JOR. WOODZED MILLS	7.6	3.45	2	95	551	6.10	5.80	.30-
S	5.740	2.400	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	7.3	2.85	19	4888	12086	2.62	2.63	.01+
S	8.590	1.100	JOR. CERAMIC IND.	4.9	8.85	4	2650	2990	1.12	1.13	.01+
S	8.540	6.350	ARAB CEMENT. DISTRIB.	7.6	7.30	2	100	685	6.95	6.85	.10-
S	6.350	4.700	DAR ALDAMA OV. INV.	6.7	6.25	5	998	5585	5.59	5.60	.01+
S	1.070	.290	LYSTROCK & POLYMER	11.9	0.00	2	1000	410	.40	.41	.02+
S	3.720	1.880	GENERAL INVESTMENT	15.7	2.90	1	250	863	3.49	3.45	.04-
S	1.040	.670	ARAB PAPER CORV. TRD.	24.4	0.00	4	31250	25000	.78	.80	.02+
S	.590	.300	INTEGRATED PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	12	8350	2880	.33	.35	.02+
S	2.350	.700	ROYAL CRIST. TRAD.	33.8	0.00	3	3100	3570	.70	.72	.02+
S	.730	.380	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	7.8	0.00	32	26100	10574	.40	.41	.02+
S	.700	.390	KAWTHER INVEST.	9	0.00	4	3500	1680	.47	.48	.01+
S	1.280	.530	DEV. HOUS. INDS.	9.6	10.00	34	2100	12228	.57	.60	.03+
S	.930	.500	JOR. TINS. RESOURCES	11.9	0.00	7	2500	1250	.51	.50	.01-
S	2.600	1.200	ROYAL. CHELORINE	8.8	7.94	6	6150	7749	1.25	1.26	.01+
S	1.080	.600	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	8.7	16.13	9	4900	3038	.62	.62	-
S	1.500	1.150	EL -RAY READY WEAR	41.9	0.00	1	350	417	1.18	1.19	.02+
S	1.310	.910	INTEL. TOBACCO	6.4	6.41	8	4000	3660	.93	.91	.02-
S	1.220	.860	UNION CH. & WGO.	9.9	0.00	1	150	135	.87	.90	.03+
S	.890	.660	JORDAN STEEL	9.1	8.64	11	19900	16099	.79	.81	.02+
S	.710	.580	IMP. RESOURCES	32.2	0.00	12	8599	5588	.65	.65	-
S	.670	.530	MID. EAST COMPLEX	9.8	0.00	1	1000	540	.54	.54	-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 80.04 %CHG: -0.01											
GRAND TOTAL	INDEX: 176.91	%CHG: +0.55	336	278604	313577						
GRAND TOTAL	INDEX: 101	202832	61584								

T : New 12 months high
+ : New 12 months low
S : Stock dividend during the past 12 months
P : Listed during the past 12 months
P/E : P/E ratio 100 or more
- : Negative P/E
E : Earning 1a zero or N/A for the most recent year

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U.S. OPEN

Moya escapes again but Krajicek hobbles out

NEW YORK (AFP) — French Open champion Carlos Moya pulled off another great escape act at the U.S. Open Sunday when he rallied to score a thrilling

6-2, 3-6, 3-6, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

Moya had saved three match points and won the final three sets to oust Michael Chang in the sec-

33rd-ranked Swede Thomas Johansson because of a left knee injury.

Britain's Wimbledon semi-finalist Tim Henman celebrated his 24th birthday

try and continue with my own progress in my own game."

Russian 11th seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov defeated 26th-ranked German Nicolas Kiefer 6-4, 6-0, 6-2, to reach the fourth round — matching his best previous showing here in 1994.

The 1996 French Open champion now faces Johansson, 23, who lost his first set 7-6 (7/5) but led the second 5-4 when Krajicek quit, ensuring the Swede would equal his best Grand Slam result — at Wimbledon in 1996.

Henman now faces either 96th-ranked Argentinian Lucas Arnold or 22nd-ranked Australian Mark Philippoussis.

"Today's match gives me as much satisfaction as my previous two," Henman said. "I have lost previous matches under similar circumstances but today I was able to win playing pretty ordinary. If I had lost, my birthday would have been an irrelevance."

"I have lost to a lot of guys lower ranked than him and I've played poor matches against low-ranked guys," Henman said.

"You have to be aware of it. Today was another relevant stepping stone. I played a guy I should beat in difficult conditions —



Australia's Mark Philippoussis returns the ball to Lucas Arnold of Argentina Sunday at the U.S. Open in New York (AP photo)

and I won."

Kohlmann, 24, had played only one ATP match before arriving in New York — in Stuttgart in July. "It's fair to say he had his chances. But I took mine," Henman said. Wind played havoc with

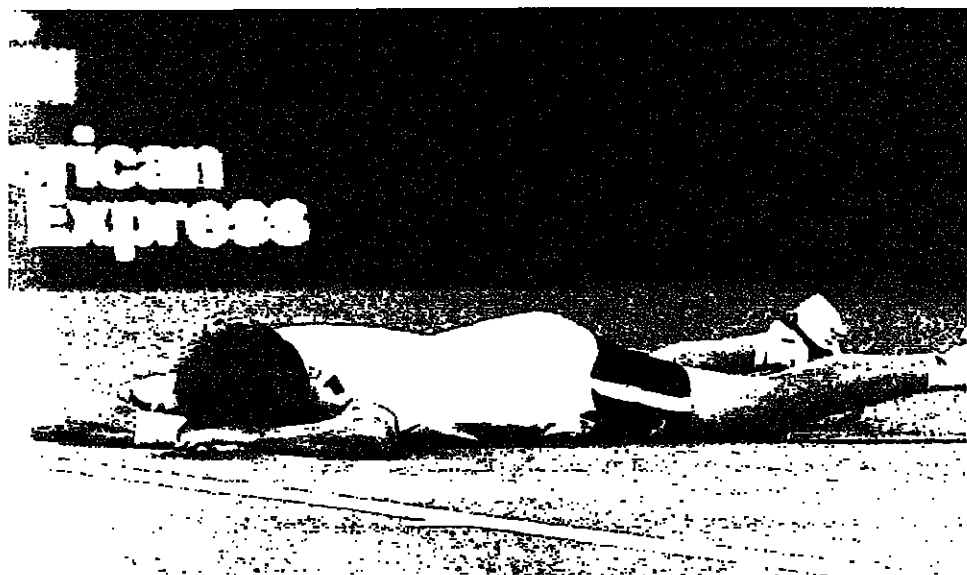
both men. Henman called it the most challenging conditions he has ever faced.

"They were probably the toughest conditions I've ever played in," he said, adding: "The wind was strong and swirling. I don't

think my struggles had so much to do with my opponent or the way he played. It was a lot more to do with the conditions."

Germany's 92nd-ranked Oliver Gross outlasted 133rd-rated American wild

card Geoff Grant 7-5, 6-7, (5/7), 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, to book a date against the winner of a later match between Chilean world number two Marcelo Rios and 34th-ranked Swede Magnus Larsson.



Sweden's Magnus Larsson lies on the court during his five-set match against Chile's Marcelo Rios, Sunday at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York (AP photo)

five-set victory over 57th-ranked American Jan-Michael Gambill in the third round of the men's singles.

The 10th-seeded Spaniard, who trailed by two sets to one, finally needed two hours and 58 minutes to subdue his oppo-

nent just 36 hours early in the Grand Slam event's longest match of 1998, three hours and 49 minutes.

Fifth-seeded Dutchman Richard Krajicek hobbled out of the event when he had to retire during his third-round match against

by dethroning Greg Rusedski as British number one. The 13th seeded Henman defeated 149th-ranked German qualifier Michael Kohlmann, 6-3, 7-5, 1-6, 6-4.

"It's nicer to be number one than number two," Henman said. "I just want to

Ill winds cannot blow away favourites

NEW YORK (AFP) — Swiss world number-one Martina Hingis and former number-one Monica Seles ousted unseeded rivals in swirling winds on Sunday to set up an intriguing quarter-

final showdown against each other at the U.S. Open.

Defending champion Hingis defeated France's 64th-ranked Nathalie Dechy 6-4, 6-4 in 80 minutes while sixth-seeded Seles took just

18 minutes longer to beat 65th-ranked fellow-American Kimberly Po 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Wimbledon champion Jana Novotna also advanced. The Czech veteran beat

ninth-seeded Irina Spirlea of Romania 6-3, 6-3 in 63 minutes and could face five-times U.S. Open winner Steffi Graf in the quarter-finals.

"It was quite difficult out there, quite windy," Novotna said.

"It's difficult to time the ball and so much of my game is timing. You have to just go out there, do your job and play well."

Novotna, who ended a string of Grand Slam frustrations with a victory at Wimbledon in July, has lost here four times in the quarter-finals and another time in the semi-finals but never reached the championship match.

Hingis has a 5-2 advantage in her matches against Seles but the American left-hander won their most recent meetings — 6-3, 6-2 at the French Open and 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 at the Canadian Open.

"I have to raise my level. I'm like 6 or 7. It's going to have to be 9 or 10 against her," Hingis said.

"You must be fast. She has unbelievable angles. She's always attacking you. She is fast. You have to be quicker."

Hingis had 41 unforced errors, six fewer than Dechy, and nine double-faults in the blustery weather.

"I had so much trouble on my returns and serve," Hingis said.

"It's next to you. You want to hit the ball and it's going away from you. You have to be focused and concentrate on every shot. You think it's an easy shot and boom. It's in the net."

Seles, a semi-finalist in six of her past seven events, reached the quarter-finals at the year's final Grand Slam event for her sixth time in a row.

But she fought through what she described as "the worst wind" she has ever faced.

"Wind is wind. But this is more than wind," she said. "You hit a ball and it doesn't go where you want by two metres. I never played in

conditions like this.

"No other tournament I have played in my career has as much wind as this. I don't think any of the players can figure out why. I just don't think it's fair to the players. It's hard to play your game. You have to use so many tactics out there to fight the wind."

"It was so windy. I never felt I could control where the ball was going. Conditions were so tough. It just swirls around. I started pushing the ball more than I should have."

Seles hit a running backhand crosscourt winner for a service break to lead 3-2 in the final set, then saved a break point on her own service with an ace and went on to hold.

"That backhand cross was really a great shot," Seles said.

Seles broke in the final game to take the match, ending the match in 98 minutes when Po sent a forehand into the net.

Po had 40 winners to 17 for Seles, but committed 50 unforced errors, 23 more than Seles, who broke four rackets in the match.

Before the 1993 stabbing that kept her off the WTA Tour for 27 1/2 months, Seles won U.S. Open crowns in 1991 and 1992. She lost to Steffi Graf in the 1995 and 1996 finals.



Number three seed Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic returns a forehand to number nine seed Irina Spirlea of Romania Sunday at the U.S. Open in Flushing Meadows, New York. Novotna won 6-3, 6-3 (AFP photo)

U.S Open Glance

NEW YORK (AP) — Highlights of Sunday's play in the \$14 million U.S. Open tennis championships:

Weather: Sunny and warm with a high of 91.

Attendance: Day: 25,202 (U.S. Open record). Night: 21,720. Total: 46,922.

Results: Men: Advancing to the fourth round were No. 7 Alex Corretja, No. 10 Carlos Moya, No. 11 Yevgeny Kafelnikov, No. 13 Tim Henman, Magnus Larsson, Mark Philippoussis, Oliver Gross and Thomas Johansson. No. 5 Richard Krajicek retired from his match against Johansson with tendinitis of the left knee. Women: In fourth-round action, No. 1 Martina Hingis defeated Nathalie Dechy, No. 3 Jana Novotna defeated No. 9 Irina

Spirlea, No. 6 Monica Seles beat Kimberly Po and No. 11 Patty Schnyder beat No. 8 Steffi Graf.

State of the Day: Graf's fourth-round loss to Schnyder was the earliest she's been eliminated at the U.S. Open since a first-round loss to Sylvia Hanika in 1984. In 13 appearances prior to this year, Graf reached the semifinals 11 times with five titles and was runner-up three times.

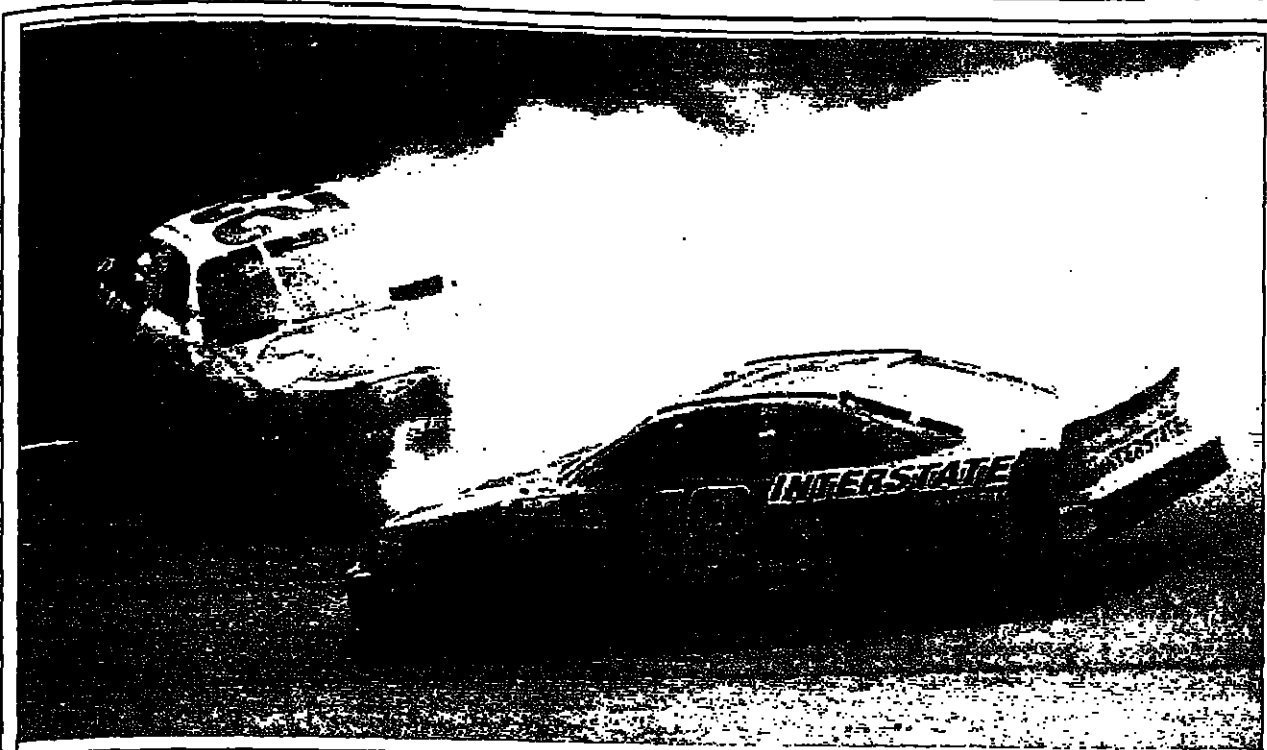
Quote of the Day: "I gave him the match basically... He didn't do anything special." — Jan-Michael Gambill, after losing to Carlos Moya.



Martina Hingis

TODAY AT	PHILADELPHIA '1'	PHILADELPHIA '2'	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	Highman Yanes Theatre
	TEL: 4634144	TEL: 4634144	TEL: 5667238	TEL: 5677420	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 5934793	TEL: 4625155
	Sophie Marceau...in leo Tolstoy's ANNA KARENINA Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	NASSER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Comedian Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 Additional shows Thursday and Friday evenings at 12:30	CONCORD '1' NASSER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD '2' UP CLOSE & PERSONAL Shows: 3:30, 5:30 only	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria GODZILLA Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30	ABDOUN www.cns.com.jo/Galleria CITY OF ANGELS Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30 Adel Imam...in AL ZA'EEM at 10:30 p.m.	WATCH OUT FOR THE NEW PLAY TERRORISM

out



Jimmy Spencer of Berwick, Pa., skids coming out of the fourth turn Sunday, at the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway in Darlington, S.C. Passing underneath is Bobby Labonte of Corpus Christi, Texas. Jeff Gordon won the race (AP photo).

Murdoch the Mr. Big of world sport

SYDNEY (AFP) — Rupert Murdoch will join the giants in world sport if he pulls off his bid to take over English football giant Manchester United.

International sports federation officials and industry analysts all now consider the Australian media magnate a major force even though he has no position on any official body.

"As far as influencing sport is concerned he is now up there with Juan Antonio Samaranch," said one international sports federation leader at the Commonwealth Games in Kuala Lumpur.

"He may not have a title like Samaranch (president of the International Olympic Committee) but he is getting bigger say in the way things are done," added an official, who requested anonymity.

The bid for United fits very much into News Corporation Limited's long-term agenda, said Michael Heffernan of Sydney-based brokerage Dickson's Ltd.

Murdoch's BSkyB satellite television company confirmed Sunday it is preparing to make a \$75 million offer for the English Premiership club before the end of the week.

At least one rival bid is now expected and the matter is set to go before Britain's monopoly commission.

But if Murdoch's bid succeeds it would make England's most famous football club a prize jewel in his burgeoning sports portfolio, which already makes up a key part of his News Corp. empire dominated by newspapers, television and other publishing interests.

Murdoch already owns the Los Angeles Dodgers.

the U.S. baseball side, through his Fox Group in the United States, which he bought a year ago for \$311 million.

He also has a minority interest in National Basketball Association team the Los Angeles Lakers and their new home arena.

Fox Group is already a major force in sports broadcasting in the United States. It is in the second year of a \$575 million deal to televise baseball. It also has the national broadcast rights to National Football League and the National Hockey League, though some reports say he wants to end the ice hockey contract.

In rugby union, Murdoch was a driving force behind the annual Tri-Nation series between Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, and the Super 12 provincial series from clubs from the same countries.

He has won television rights, but the two contests have made Southern Hemisphere nations the world force in rugby union.

Murdoch's BSkyB has made the English Premiership soccer the most profitable football league in the world with its five-year 200 million pound (\$320 million) TV deal. It spent 87 million pounds (\$137 million) on a similar rugby league deal. Fans now enjoy regular live match broadcasts on Sundays and Mondays with BSkyB getting a major say on when the best matches are played.

"Sport is the agenda. Over the last five years he has built up the infrastructure of broadcasting ability and has then gone for content. By far the cheapest production is covering a sporting event," Sydney analyst Heffernan told AFP.

"He is into super leagues, creating a competition of the very best, the elite, and I would assume if you own the wealthiest and strongest club you will have some influence," he added. "It gives him a voice at the table."

Murdoch is believed to be involved in attempts to set up a European Super League of the top 100 soccer clubs.

And he will not want for cash if his planned public float of his U.S. film, TV and sports assets — including the Dodgers — raises the \$3.6 billion expected.

Although News Corp. failed to win control of the Australian rugby league championship last year, in a



File photo dated August 13, 1991 of media tycoon Rupert Murdoch (AFP photo)

six-month legal battle which analysts estimate cost the company \$100 million. Heffernan believed Murdoch had come out a winner by creating a captive audience for his cable TV.

Some supporters groups have already come out against Murdoch buying Manchester United.

But the sports federation leader in Kuala Lumpur, who requested anonymity, said "Murdoch has transformed football in England and the habits of all its followers. People raised doubts then but now they love the cash he has brought in. Football has never had it so good."

Not only did Strunz fail to shine last season but he also fell out with coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

He was fined 10,000 marks (\$5,800) for criticising Trapattoni and found himself on the substitutes' bench for much of the season.

After Bayern lost their title to Kaiserslautern, Trapattoni was replaced by Ottmar Hitzfeld who steered Borussia Dortmund to the 1997 European Cup.

Hitzfeld, whose squad features 16 internationals, gave Strunz a second chance, naming him in his starting line-up when the season began.

Strunz has repaid Hitzfeld's faith in him so well that he should be a certain starter for the match against Rostock.

"Our goal is the title and we're certainly strong enough to achieve it," said Strunz, aware that a few more brilliant performances could earn him a recall to the German national side.

The only other side to have won their first two matches are champions Kaiserslautern, who face an interesting test away to European Cup winners' Cup finalists VfB Stuttgart on Tuesday.

Kaiserslautern's Swiss international Ciriaco Sforza, who had been nursing a nasty ankle injury, is fit again and will take care of the playmaking duties. Coach Otto Rehhagel is adamant that his goal this season is a top-five placing but his captain has other ideas.

"If we can keep the spirit we had last year, and our first matches suggest we can, there is no reason why we should not retain our title," Sforza said.

Bayern Leverkusen, who have finished in the top three in the past two seasons, have fond memories of their past two home encounters against Hamburg SV who they play host to on Wednesday. They won both 5-0.

Borussia Dortmund, who finished a miserable 10th last year, will have their work cut out against newly-promoted Nuremberg on Wednesday. Nuremberg are unbeaten after their opening two matches.

Poles send England a warning as Latvia stun Norway

PARIS (AFP) — Poland sounded a warning to Group Five rivals England on Sunday when they travelled to Bourgas on the Black Sea and handed Bulgaria a 3-0 hammering in their opening Euro 2000 match.

And Latvia showed that Baltic football is on the up and up by coming away from Norway with a stunning 3-1 win to throw Group Two wide open.

Twenty-four hours earlier Lithuania held Scotland to a goalless draw.

Portugal, like Latvia and Poland, another side who failed to make France 98, also got off to a flier by registering an away win of their own, coming from a goal down to beat Hungary 3-1 in Budapest.

The Poles leapfrogged England's conquerors Sweden in Group Five with a stirring performance highlighted by two first-half Czereszewski goals.

Iwan 48 completed the runaway win with the third just three minutes after the restart to sink the spirits of the 15,000 crowd after a fiercely-fought encounter which saw seven bookings.

Angry fans immediately called for the resignation of Bulgarian coach Hristo Bonev, who kept faith with veteran striker Hristo Stoichkov.

All three goals came as a result of swift counter-attacks which were aided by poor defending.

But impressive though the Poles were, it was Latvia who registered the best showing of the night with their triumph in Oslo.

Norway, who bowed out of France 98 in the second round when they were

beaten by a slender 1-0 margin by Italy, were rocked back on their heels when Marians Pahars scored the opening goal on

Ferenc Horvath scored on the half hour for Hungary. But Ricardo Sa Pinto marked his return to international football after a

Slovakia beat Azerbaijan 3-0.

In Group Eight, where Ireland surprised World Cup semi-finalists Croatia



Faroe's goalie Jakup Mikkelsen (C) grabs the ball behind the attacking Czech Vartislav Lokvenc (9) watched by Faroe player Hans Frodi Hansen (L) during their Group 9 Euro 2000 qualification match in Toftir, Sept. 6. The Czech Republic won the match 1-0 (AFP photo)

11 minutes.

Stale Solbakken equalised six minutes later but Latvia came again with second-half efforts by Andreja Stolicers and Mihails Zemlinskis.

Latvia are their provisional group leaders ahead of Georgia, 1-0 winners over Albania on Saturday.

In the same group on Sunday, Greece and Slovenia drew 2-2.

Portugal, slammed by their fans in the wake of their failure to qualify for the World Cup, had a shock in Budapest when

twelve month ban with the equaliser on 56 minutes.

Sa Pinto, suspended from football for punching former Portuguese coach Artur Jorge and who joined Spanish side Real Sociedad in the summer, then cracked home a second goal in the 76th minute.

Fiorentina star Rui Costa completed the scoring six minutes from time.

Romania are Group Seven favourites, however, after opening with a 7-0 crushing of Liechtenstein on Saturday, while

2-0 on Saturday in Dublin. Macedonia thrashed Malta 4-0.

And in Scotland's Group Nine, the Czech Republic just crept past the Faroe Islands 1-0 with a Vladimir Smicer goal six minutes from the end.

Meanwhile, Spain coach Javier Clemente insisted he was staying in his post despite a humiliating 3-2 defeat to tiny Cyprus on Saturday.

"I am not going. I will not quit. I will win my battle to stay in charge," Clemente insisted.

Strunz believes he has put bad times behind him

BONN (R) — Thomas Strunz believes he has put the bad times behind him.

"I'm enjoying playing football again," said the defensive midfielder, an important figure in German first division leaders Bayern Munich's opening two victories of the season.

"A few months ago everybody was counting me out," added Strunz who is looking to play a key role in maintaining Bayern's 100 per cent league start to the season in the home match against Hansa Rostock on Wednesday.

Not only did Strunz fail to shine last season but he also fell out with coach Giovanni Trapattoni.

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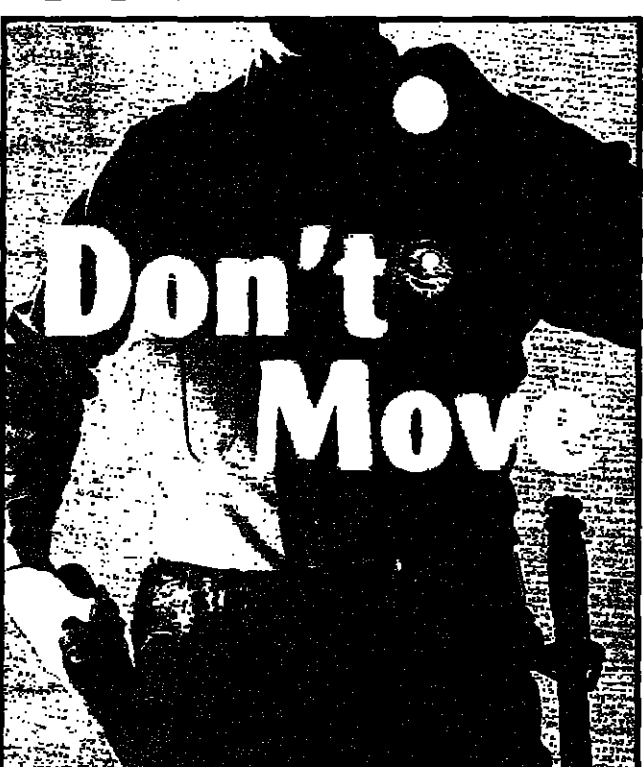
Vogts resigns as German coach

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Berti Vogts, Germany's beleaguered coach, has resigned, the German Football Federation (DFB) announced here Monday.

Vogts, 51, who replaced Franz Beckenbauer after Germany's 1990 World Cup triumph, made the decision to go following a telephone conversation with DFB President Egidius Braun.

A DFB statement said a successor would be found as soon as possible with Germany's opening Euro 2000 match against Turkey just a month away.

A huge question mark had hung over Vogts' tenure after the media slammed his side's performances in last week's friendlies, which brought a lame 2-1 win over Malta and a draw with Romania.



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Daily showers cast doubts on opening ceremony

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) — Worried that heavy downpours could wash out Friday's opening ceremony, organisers of the 1998 Commonwealth Games said Monday they were looking for special equipment to drain water from the main arena.

Rain was the main problem facing the elaborate opening ceremony, said Abdul Manap Ibrahim, chief operating officer of the games' organising committee.

"We need to clear the water from the surface so that the performers will not slip during their routines. More equipment will be placed on standby to clear up any puddles of water," said Sports Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

Marchers may be given transparent raincoats, he said. A few performances had to be cancelled because of

heavy rain during a rehearsal Sunday but they would be held on Friday, Abdul Manap was quoted as saying by Bernama news agency.

Almost every day in the last week, skies have darkened in late afternoon and heavy rain has poured. It rained again Monday around the time the opening ceremony is scheduled to start.

Thousands of performers, including schoolchildren participating in the choreographed show, were drenched. The ceremony is to feature several local musicians and singers and a brass band drawn from 14 schools.

"I am proud of the performers who are basically young children. They behaved like professionals out there despite the rain," said Yassin.

A second rehearsal was scheduled Wednesday at the Bukit Jalil stadium, which can accommodate 100,000 spectators.

China makes clean sweep of China Grand Prix

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese players mopped up the remaining two titles of the China table tennis Grand Prix to take a clean sweep of the competition, Xinhua reported Monday.

Only one medal in the \$61,000 event — silver in the women's doubles — went to a non-Chinese player.

"The clean sweep shows that our players have made great improvement after a long period of training over the winter," said Cai Zhenhua, head coach of the Chinese national team.

"If we can maintain this momentum, we can win at least four gold medals at the Asian Games in Bangkok in December," he added.

In a gripping game for the men's singles title, second seed Liu Guoliang eventually beat compatriot Ma Lin after going down a set at the start and almost conceding

the fourth set.

The final result was 19-21, 21-19, 21-13, 21-18.

"When I was trailing at the crucial moment, I felt very tough pressure, but finally I became more concentrated and got the win," Liu said after clinching the victory.

Ma had earlier pulled off the greatest upset of the competition by beating number one seed Kong Linghui in the semi-finals.

In the women's doubles, the Chinese duo of Yang Ying and Wu Na beat South Korea's Park Hae Jung and Tyu Ji Hae in straight sets.

Last year, China failed to claim a men's singles title in any of the major international tournaments. But this year, Chinese players have already snatched men's singles titles at the Malaysian Open and Australian Open.

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